New Orleans Daily Crescent.

DOUBLE SHEET.

NEW ORLEANS:

MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1857.

Quarantine Below the City.

Not long since, Mr. Slidell submitted the subjoined resolution in the United States Senate, which was considered by unanimous consent, and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into and report upon the amount of appropriation which will be necessary to enable the President of the United States to establish, in conformity with the provisions of the third section of the act of 26th February, 1799, entitled "An act respecting quarantines and health laws," suitable warehouses, with wharves and enclosures, at the quarantine ground established by the State of Louisiana on the Mississippi river, below New Orleans, where goods and merchandise may be unladen and deposited from any vessel which shall be subject to a quarantine or other restraint under the fourth laws of Louisiana.

This is a very judicious move on the part of our distinguished Senator, and we trust it may prove fruitful of advantageous results. Congress may well afford to act liberally in the premises, for if there is efficacy in a quarantine, the States of the South-western Valley are interested in having an efficient one below this metropolis. The object possesses as many national characteristics as the navigation of the Western rivers.

The subject of quarantine will come up in the House of Representatives to-day. Judge Beecher, of the Fourth District, has had the matter in charge, and has prepared almost an entire new bill changing the present system materially. From what we learned in regard to it we are inclined to think the proposed changes will work a decided improvement. The burthens upon commerce will be reduced nearly fifty per cent., and the quarantine left in a self-sustaining position.

We expect to receive a copy of the bill in a day or two, and shall lose no time in spreading its main features before the public.

St. Charles Theater.

In order to give effective rehearsals to "Hamlet," its production is postponed for a night or two, and Mr. Neafie will make his first appearance this season in his personation of *Louis* and *Fabian De Franchi*—the Corsican Brothers, in which he stands confessedly without a rival. In this double performance Mr. Neafie has won the unqualified approbation of the press and the public throughout the Union. We cannot do better than copy the following excellent article from the Richmond Whig, as it freely expresses our own ideas upon the subject:

The largest audience of the season was present at the theater last evening, to witness the production of that singularly constructed and all-absorbing romantic spectacle, the "Corsican Brothers." To speak of its rendition as we feel like speaking, would almost seem fulsome laudation, for the entire entertainment was one succession of perfect and thrilling effects. It was a matter of special interest yesterday to consider the effective and performing and perfect abandon of the great artist, Mr. Neafie, in his thorough and perfect identity with the double and ubiquitous characters he plays. The absolute presence of both the brothers on the stage at the same time, both personated and spoken by Mr. N., exceeds all the feats of even Ingersbaugh we ever witnessed. The beautiful and tender love between the two brothers—the one in Paris, the other in Corsica, two hundred and eighty leagues distant—the sympathy which makes (at this distance) the one brother feel the stab which the other has just received, the writing of the letter by Fabian (Mr. Neafie) to Louis, and as Fabian is about sealing the letter, the ghost of Louis (Mr. Neafie again) appearing to Fabian. The sigh of Louis—laying the hand upon Fabian's shoulder—the touch not felt, yet recognized. The opening of the wall, and the revelation of the deed at Fontainbleau, was such a tableau as riveted every eye and almost stilled the beating of every heart.

The second act occurs simultaneously with the first, and we are thrown into the gilded *salons* of Paris. Louis, (Mr. Neafie) in his righteous purpose to rescue from sin the woman he loves—his encounter with the libertine, Chalmet Renescal—his defiance of the serpent—the challenge—its acceptance—reproduction of the duel—Louis (Neafie) dying and yet speaking—his death and the instantaneous appearance of Fabian (Mr. Neafie) at Corsica, while the body of Louis is yet upon the stage, producing the most impressive double tableau.

The third act is Fabian's (Mr. Neafie) pursuit of the murderer of his brother. This we thought the most thrilling of the whole. The holy, yet inflexible resolve of the living brother for vengeance, bearing in his breast the mere fragments of a broken heart, bound up and kept together for the time, alone for his dread purpose—the calm, yet awful dignity of the actor thrilled every nerve. We have never heard such effect given to barely six words as by Mr. N. in assuring Chateau Renaud that "this is his combat will be the last." It was scarcely spoken above a whisper, but it made our blood tingle to our very fingers' ends. Finally, the duel was the most chaste, yet most terrible that ever graced a stage.

The fourth act, added to the original piece, (from the pen of Mr. Neafie,) is beautiful beyond praise; not as a piece of writing, but a necessary close of the whole and story. The star has judged rightly that Fabian could not live when half of himself was gone; and now, when the great purpose of his life was accomplished—revenge for his brother's death—the poor remnants of the shattered heart now fall asunder, and he goes to join his brother in that world where "grief and sorrow come not."

WHAT A SIGHT IT WOULD BE.—If the different articles in the large double store of Messrs. E. R. Stevens & Co., Nos. 67 and 69 Common street, should be called for simultaneously, and each article called for by the person destined to use it, what an odd crowd there would be, to be sure, and what a sight it would be! There would be printers, clerks and writers of all classes, after paper, blank books and stationery; sportsman after "the documents;" school teachers after rudimental books; plain ladies after looks and eyes, needles, thimbles and a thousand other useful trifles; fashionable ladies after necessary perfumeries and the like; barbers after combs and razors; boot-blacks after brushes and blacking; dandies after watchguards, etc.; hunters and fire-eaters after guns, pistols and ammunition; fishers after nets and hooks; mariners after compasses; affectionate parents after toys for their little ones; and housekeepers after all manner of articles of necessity, comfort and luxury—everybody, in short, after everything! Would it be a sight, though? But, fortunately, most of the purchases in life are made by deputy, and as different people go shopping at different hours, no one of the classes of people named need fear a jostling with the others; particularly when it is known that those grand counseling links between town and country, the country merchants frequently include twice the variety we have named in a single purchase. Messrs. S. & Co. do large wholesale business, which enables them to sell very cheaply. Retailers should pay them a visit. See their card.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HORSES.—The horse, as well as the human, has its ills, and being dumb, is liable to suffer cruelly before his ailing is well discovered—we mean when in the hands of any of the thousands who have the noble animal in keeping, and look upon him as a mere machine. A great many, able to see that something is the matter with their animals, go to tinkering and experimenting with them, and frequently aggravate themselves, in their anxiety to save a few dollars, by having their disease become entirely worthless on their hands. A sick horse is just as nice a subject for medical treatment as a sick human; and fortunate it is that there are horse doctors whose knowledge and experience equal that of their brothers of the more refined practice. Dr. W. Prescot, at No. 108 Julia street, is a veterinary physician of the first standing; and we would advise all who have ailing animals to read his card in another column.

☞ Messrs. Hughes, Valette & Co., Algiers, will launch a mammoth dock belonging to the Louisiana Dry Dock Company, on Monday 23d, at 5 o'clock, P. M., from their yard opposite the Belleville Iron Works.

This is the largest dock ever built at Algiers, and the launch will be well worth seeing. Visitors, by taking the Canal street ferry at half-past 12 o'clock, will be in time to witness the launch.

"KING LEAR."—One of the finest scenes in this great production of Shakspeare is that in which *Edmund* leads the blind old *Gloster* out on the heath, and makes him fancy he is on the verge of Dover Cliff. This scene was beautifully rendered at the Gaiety theater the other night, when Anderson played *Lear*. Thinking over it since, we have concluded that that scene, as well as many other beautiful scenes preserved from either the fancies or the realities of the past, would now be lost to us had mechanical science not then been always. For instance, if Messrs. Schmolzer & Co.'s Brazilian pebble spectacles had been an institution of *King Lear's* reign, the probabilities are that *Gloster* would have had a pair of them and saved his sight; all which would have plucked a very considerable feather from the wing of Shakspeare's fancy. We should value the scene, however, as a most powerful picture of the agony of blindness; and no man who has witnessed it, and is conscious himself of a weakness or infirmness of sight, should neglect for a day to procure one of the most valuable sight-preserves and strengtheners in existence—the Brazilian pebble spectacles. See the certificates published by Messrs. Schmolzer & Co. in this morning's Crescent.

A FINE WATCH AND A FINE GUN.—It is always the delight of a gentleman to be "up to time" and able to "hit the mark" in everything. Nothing adds the first accomplishment so much as a fine watch, and nothing adds the latter more than practice with a fine gun. These articles are to be had in their perfection, together with a great variety of jewelry and other desirable goods, of Messrs. D. Kernaghan & Co., No. 65 Canal street. See card.

☞ FURNITURE TRAFFIC.—Mr. P. M. Tourne, at No. 22 Baronne street, will be found a desirable person to deal with by those who wish to buy or sell second-hand furniture or have the same rejuvenated. See his card.

A WARNING.—We would advise our bachelor friends, or those who board or lodge around "promiscuously," and may have no desire to change that manner of life, never to purchase Shirting Flannels, Drawers and Dryades, if they can help it. If they should permit themselves to look in at Stewart's furniture warehouses two or three in passing, they might get a thinking of housekeeping and the comforts of a domestic fireside—and that, too, long before forming any special predilections for dimity and natural wax work. To such we say, don't look in at Stewart's. His furniture is entirely too beautiful and too cheap to be stared at with impunity.

NEW ORLEANS AND BATON ROUGE RAILROAD.

The bill to extend the aid of the State to this much needed and important public improvement, in the same manner and form that the State has extended aid to the New Orleans and Jackson, the Vicksburg and Shreveport, and the New Orleans and Opelousas Railroads, came up for consideration as the special order of the day, for its second reading, in the House of Representatives at 12 o'clock on Thursday last. Considerable and unexpected opposition was made against the bill, although we (one of the editors of this paper was present during the progress of the debate that ensued) were unable to discover anything approximating solvent argument in the objections urged by the opponents of the measure. Thus much we feel constrained to say, for truth compels us to say it, expressly stipulating that no offensive interpretation shall be placed upon our remarks. We never impugn men's motives. *They* are not amenable to journalistic criticism. But, it is fair and legitimate to take up and discuss the acts and speeches of public men on public measures.

The opposition to the bill was so captious and unreasonable, yet persevering and unrelenting, and withal so devoid of a sound basis to rest upon, that it led our mind into reflections of a peculiar character. To hear the opponents of the bill talk, and some of them talked violently, a stranger would have been led to conclude that the opposition represented a vast majority of the tax-paying interests of this fair and wealthy commonwealth of Louisiana. As we didn't know positively, and as we wanted to know, we proceeded to examine the best, in fact the only source, whence accurate information could be derived, viz: The very able and elaborate report of the present excellent Auditor of Public Accounts, Hon. Samuel F. Marks.

That examination absolutely demonstrated far more facts than we supposed to exist, namely—that those who represented constituencies paying an overwhelming majority of the monies paid into the State Treasury were in favor of granting the subscription asked for at the hands of the Legislature. We had felt confident, all along, that the tax-paying communities, as represented in dollars and cents on the books of the accounting officers of the government, were strongly favorable to the road, but we did not imagine the preponderance would be so great—would go so far beyond our calculation—would approximate four-fifths, on the first important vote taken.

On the passage of the first section of the Railroad bill, for the second reading, on Thursday last, the representatives of the following named parishes voted as set down in the appended table. The votes of the parishes which were divided are omitted, as they would make no difference in the computation we propose to present. There may be some slight errors in the figures, possibly, but they will not invalidate to any material extent the correctness of the statistics to which we now call the attention of the public.

The vote on the first section, alluded to above, was regarded, generally, as a test vote, although we did not so regard it, owing to the absence of a large number of the friends of the bill. It stood by parishes, with the assessment of each annexed, as follows:

Nay.		Yea.	
Bienville	39 93	Concordia	38,934 00
Caddo	18,2 0	East Baton Rouge	31,949 71
Calcasieu	4,475	Franklin	5,515 17
Caldwell	1,597	Iberville	33,347 76
Carroll	30,492	Livingston	5,122 00
Catahoula	12,896	Orleans	473,171 05
Claiborne	16,573	Ouachita	12,317 12
De Soto	11,671	Pointe Coupee	30,042 42
Iberville	36,282	Rapides	49,829 76
Jackson	10,801	St. Helena	7,579 17
Lafourche	22,281	St. James	28,039 74
Morehouse	8,754	St. Martin	23,175 97
Natchitoches	38,622	St. Mary	39,018 99
Saline	4,785	St. Tammany	5,695 56
St. Charles	18,163	Tensas	34,828 56
St. Landry	41,012	West Baton Rouge	10,815 95
Union	11,258	West Feliciana	30,629 77
Vermillion	2,314		
Winn	2,548		
	$272,140 83		$838,258 19

Now, what does the above show? Why, although it is not necessary to recapitulate, as the figures speak for themselves, that the parishes voting for and against the bill through their representatives in the Legislature paid into the common fund last year $1,110,399 04. The parishes voting nay paid $272,140 83. The parishes voting yea paid $838,258 19—more than *four-fifths* of the entire sum! The whole amount of the taxes, proper, of all the parishes reached $1,372,290 14. Here, at a glance, is shown that those who pay the largest proportion of revenue to support the government are disposed to grant the application set forth in the bill. And, had all the parishes been represented, we entertain little or no doubt that the preponderance would have been fully *eight-tenths* instead of four-fifths.

We contend and can prove that we are as good republicans in the universally accepted sense of the term, as can be found in the Legislature or elsewhere, and we would not if we could allow wealth to exercise more than its due share of influence in the operations of our government where considerations of mere policy are involved; yet we do maintain, and ever shall maintain, that on a purely financial question—where dollars and cents are alone concerned—that those who will have to stand the brunt of the losses that may be incurred, taking the *worst* view of the case, should be heard in preference to those who are least liable to loss.

We have no doubt, as we remarked above, that eight-tenths of the taxable property of this commonwealth, as set down in the Auditor's report and as represented in the Legislature, is in favor of this railroad subscription. We believe the final vote, to be taken on Thursday next, will substantiate this view of the matter, even if a constitutional majority is not obtained. And what can be thought of the sense of justice of those gentlemen who will persist in defeating the ardent wishes of their fellow-citizens who contribute so great a majority of the taxes to the general fund? But, we will not dwell upon this theme. It is repulsive to all our ideas of equitable dealing between man and man.

Under such circumstances, it seems to us the opponents of this bill, no matter how strong their hostility, should waive their objections on grounds of sheer justice. And we shall hold to that view until a contrary one is forced upon us by indisputable acts.

Legislative Absenteeism.

The absence of members from their seats has long been considered a serious as well as a growing evil, but it remained for this session of the Legislature to develope its frightful magnitude. We believe a statement that bare quorums have transacted the business of the session half the time thus far, would be substantiated by a reference to the journals of the House. And it is well known that several adjournments have been forced owing to a lack of numbers to constitute a quorum! Yet, we unhesitatingly venture the assertion that not a single member will fail to draw his mileage and per diem for the full session, whether he has been in his place a fifth, fourth, quarter or half the time.

Some people may look upon such conduct as right and proper, but we do not. We not only regard it as the opposite of right, as manifestly improper, but as a wilful repudiation of high obligations voluntarily assumed, which if practiced in other spheres of action would bring reproach, if not positive disgrace, upon the derelict parties. If a lawyer treated his clients as many of our representatives treat their principals, he would soon be without clients, for he would be unworthy their confidence or the confidence of any body else.

A great proportion of this legislative absenteeism is chargeable upon the representatives elected by the voters of New Orleans. Too many remain at home, when, according to their pledge, they should be at the state capitol. Let not this neglect, we earnestly appeal to them, be continued any longer. The session is more than one-half expired—many important matters will come up for discussion and determination during the remainder of the term permitted by the constitution—and there should be a full attendance from all parts of the State. Those who longer neglect their duties will be held to a severe accountability.

NUTRIMENT IN SHELLS.—The Esquimaux dog, it is said, can live a long time on his mere smell of food, provided it be sufficiently rich and odorous. If this be true, we would like to see one of those animals stationed in front of Mr. Bercier's fine grocery, No. 25 Baronne street. We too sure he would get the gaunt in a few days, and be mainly to leave the spot, he well as too fat to wag his tail in token of delight. Mr. Bercier always keeps the choicest and freshest groceries, and as a matter of course he drives lucrative business. See his card.

FISCHER'S PIANOS.—A splendid lot of pianos, of the make of Messrs. J. & C. Fischer, New York, are now offering at private sale by Mr. Gardner Smith, the auctioneer. They may be inspected at his office, No. 84 Common street. See advertisement.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Messrs. Heaton & Olivier, at No. 49 Common street, are the agents in this city for the patent American Charcoal Galvanized Iron—an article of great strength and pliability, suited to innumerable manufacturing purposes. See advertisement in another part of our paper.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT OF IT.—At one time, in England, printers were invested with the distinction of wearing swords at court presentations. If such distinctions were fashionable now-a-days or in this country, we have no doubt that our friends, Messrs. Clark & Brisdale, of the Crescent Job Office, would be compelled to wear swords on all public occasions; for course they are printers in the fullest sense of the term, doing all their work quickly, cheaply, and with a neatness and beauty such as Faust never thought of, nor Franklin ever dreamt of in all his philosophy. Though Messrs. C. & B. are not permitted to wear swords, they are spunk to the backbone, for they challenge the world—not to fight, but to show prettier jobs of printing than they can turn out. Don't be afraid of them, gentlemen—all is win your orders. They rise with the lark and retire with the owl, for they do a prodigious quantity of work, which, however, does not exhaust their capacity. No. 70 Camp street, third story.

SPRING GOODS AT SCANLAN'S.—A splendid assortment of silver silks, organdies, barages, embroideries, laces, and millinery, has just been received at the popular establishment of Messrs. P. Scanlan & Co., No. 121 Canal and 1 Chartres street. Now that the weather is beautiful, and the smiles of Spring are fairly upon us, we may anticipate a great rush of the ladies to Scanlan's. Messrs. S. & Co., it should not be forgotten, are closing out their winter stock below cost.

TO PLANTERS AND GARDENERS.—Now is the season when the earth invites for the gardener's seeds, and to lavish the tempting treasures of a full medium of seeds and shrubs, and to those who are setting about kitchen-gardening we would say that a finer assortment of garden seeds than is now offering by Mr. D. Maupay, at No. 61 Gravier street, was never seen in this city. Every description of vegetable and herb seeds included in the list, and they are put up in packages to suit gardeners or merchants for country sales. We would novise all engaged in tilling the soil to glance over the list, as advertised by Mr. Maupay, in to-day's paper.

GREAT BARGAINS AT CHURCHILL'S.—Mr. S. B. Churchill, at the corner of Apollo and Bruto streets, will to-day open a very desirable assortment of dry goods, and offer them at prices which must excite an excitement among the fairer part of creation. If embroidered lawns at 50 cents, embroidered handkerchiefs at 12½ cents, gentlemen's handkerchiefs at 15 cents, corded skirts at 12½ and 25 cents, and French collars at 25 cents a piece, is not cheap, then we don't know the meaning of the word. Look at the advertisement ladies—you will need no coaxing to visit Churchill after that.

ATTEND TO YOUR LINEN.—Cleanliness of person and taste in dress are the two most infallible evidences of the gentleman, judging of him as you meet him on the streets; and no garment tends to complete the character of clean linen and neatness, as a collar. This cost may be costly, the boot pinched or the hat weak in the crown, but gentility never deserts a man so long as he wears a clean neat-fitting shirt with a well-set collar. Therefore, if your wardrobe thus down, attend to your linen first of all; and having made up your mind to do that, go and pay your homage to Moody, the shirt monarch, at the corner of Canal street and Exchange Alley. See his figures in another part of our paper.

FRENCH'S BARGAIN DEPOT.—The semi-weekly auction sale of dry goods and fancy articles at French's, No. 130 Poydras street, will begin to-day at half-past 10 o'clock. The greatest bargains in all kinds of goods are to be had there by everybody. Through the week bargains are still to be had in all kinds of goods. The store is always crowded, and for a most excellent reason. See advertisement under auction head.

DOLBEAR'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, 106 CANAL STREET.—New classes begin this week in French, Spanish, German, English, Mathematics, Penmanship, Book-keeping, etc. There are special apartments and professors for each branch. There are day and evening classes.

SPIDERS OUTDONE.—The web of the gossamer spider is one of the finest and most beautiful things in nature; still, exquisite as it is weaving, it is no more so than that of Mr. Stoehenrieth, with human hair for his material; whilst his wearing or braiding is done in every shape which fancy can suggest or taste approve. Mr. S.'s establishment is at No. 42 Chartres street. His advertisement will be found worth reading.

HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS.—Messrs. P. R. Fell & Co., at 17 Camp street, are prepared to furnish everything that a house can need in the way of crockery, kitchen utensils, fine table ware, chamber ornaments, etc. See advertisement.

SUMPTUOSITY.—This is a word which Webster tells us is obsolete; still it has an apparent meaning. For instance, if a house be furnished with carpets, mirrors, chairs, tables, papers, upholstories, etc., it presents an appearance of great sumptuosity. Those who would have an under definition of the word, so far as regards carpets and carpets, have only to visit the establishment of Messrs. J. D. Patterson & Co., No. 124 Canal street. Their card in our advertising columns gives some useful particulars.

WARM WEATHER CLOTHING.—Gentlemen who don't wish the warm weather to catch them in their winter category, had better attend to the hint of Messrs. North, Mott & Co., at the corner of Camp and Common streets. The said hint may be found in our advertising columns.

CROCKERY AT WHOLESALE.—Country dealers would do well to inspect the extensive and splendid stock of crockery, glass, plated ware, which Messrs. Samuel R. Moore & Co. are offering at No. 63 Camp street. See advertisement.

"MUSIC HATH CHARMS."—If you don't believe it, go and run your fingers over the keys of the pianos which Mr. Gaiden, no. 79 Camp street, is offering to a discriminating public. They are the manufactory of Stodart & Stodart, New York, and are so sweet tuned that the merest bungler may draw music from them. See card.

DILLON'S IN A BLAZE.—Mr. E. Dillon, at No. 9 Camp street, is offering an assortment of the most beautiful and exclusive jewelry in the composition of the ladies and gentlemen of New Orleans. His supply of watches is very large, and includes all qualities, ranging from $10 to $250; he has all descriptions of ladies jewelry, in full and half sets, comprising the latest and most charming styles; with every other article in the jewelry line, specimens of different kinds, and fancy miscellaneous goods in great variety. His silver ware is superb, and well worth inspection by those who aim at elegant housekeeping. To crown all, his prices are low—very low—his principle of business being that of quick sales and small profits. We would advise the ladies and gentlemen generally, to drop into Dillon's to-day and take a look over the whole elegant display. There will be some many most desirable articles, offering at prices that must eliminate their desire to purchase. See Mr. D.'s card in last morning's Crescent.

WATCHMAKING.—Mr. H. P. Buckley, at No. 8 Camp street, is a master of the watchmaking art, as all his patrons know. See his card.

RICH FANCY GOODS.—A very brilliant display of Parisian fancy goods for household use is to be seen at Mr. P. Mallard's, No. 62 Royal street. The store is well worth looking into.

NEW SPRING CLOTHING.—Messrs. Pierson, Harrison & Co., at the corner of Canal and Magazine streets, have received a very large stock of spring and summer clothing, embracing all the novelties of the season. These spring days have rendered such articles most desirable articles for store and counting-house wear. Citizens, strangers, everybody, will find the same a superb one to select down. See advertisements.

CARPETINGS.—Messrs. A. Broussard & Co., at No. 19 Chartres street, are supplied with their usual spare his extensive assortment of carpets, mats, etc. See advertisement.

STAR PLAINING MILLS.—Builders and others will find the Star Planing Mills, at the New Basin, a place wanting their patronage. Rough and dressed lumber is by no means dear at very low prices.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1857.

The Senate on yesterday passed the House bill providing for the construction of three wagon roads to California. It has been evident for some time that the project of a *railroad* to the Pacific could not be carried through at the present session. The vastness of the enterprise, the immense amount it would cost, and the doubt as to the returns upon so heavy an investment, have influenced many members of Congress against a railroad to the Pacific, who have no constitutional scruples about the power of the General Government to undertake it. It became well known, in the early part of the session, that it was futile to press the subject upon the attention of the present Congress. Mr. Weller, with indomitable energy and perseverance, had struggled during the whole of the last session to get the Senate to take up his bill for consideration. And yet he could never succeed. His untiring exertions in behalf of the interests of his State have been fitly (?) rewarded in his rejection from his present position—and the substitution of a man wholly unaccustomed to federal service. Such are the rewards of public men who faithfully serve the interests of their constituents, to the neglect of the modern art of acquiring political popularity and influence.

These wagon roads will serve all the present purposes of our intercourse with the Pacific. They will be made under the superintendence of a competent corps of engineers, and will be well made. Military stations will be established here and there along the line of the road, to protect emigrants and travelers from hostile Indians, and to relieve them in case of suffering and want. The cost of these roads will be comparatively insignificant. On the whole, this is about as much as the Californians had a right to expect. Perhaps the travel and commerce over these roads may, in a few years, demonstrate the necessity of a railroad—and, in that event, Congress will not hesitate to construct it. Turnpikes and wagon roads are usually the *usual couriers* of railroads—and time will, in all probability, prove such to be the case in this instance.

Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, has given notice in the Senate of his intention to introduce a bill authorizing the distributing the proceeds of the sales of the public lands among the several States. This is substantially the same policy in respect of the public lands which Mr. Clay recommended during his day, and which was incorporated into the creed of the Whig party. Mr. Bell's proposition is to divide the money, arising from sales of the public lands, among the respective States according to their federal numbers. But those States which have already received grants of lands for railroads or other purposes, are to have the value of such grants, estimating the land at one dollar and a quarter per acre, deducted from their proportionate share.

The revenue arising from sales of the public lands has increased very much in the last few years, owing to the rise in real estate everywhere, and the still further advancement of our population to the West. During the last fiscal year our receipts from this source amounted in the gross to, I think, nearly eight millions of dollars. This is, therefore, one of the causes of that unhealthy plethora in the treasury which our almost reckless extravagance of the last few years has not served to diminish, and which our legislators are even now puzzling their brains to prevent. A distribution, such as Mr. Bell proposes, would relieve the treasury, give increased vitality and power to the State governments, and, above all, would accomplish an act of justice to the old States, which, under the present system, derive no appreciable benefit from this vast public domain, which is the common property of all. It is not without precedent, for the same thing has been done before. And, in fact, unless Congress establish some fixed policy with regard to the public lands, there will soon be little left to quarrel over. Fourteen millions of acres were granted for railroad purposes at the last session—and, no longer ago than yesterday, the Senate passed a bill granting about four millions of acres to Minnesota—enough to build railroads in that State aggregating to *nine hundred and twenty-five miles* in length.

Yet Mr. Bell's proposition has not "the ghost of a chance" of success. Our southern Democratic friends will oppose it, in consideration of their traditional hostility to distribution, and their regard to the *rights* of the States—though I do not see that the *rights* of the States can be injuriously affected by adding to their *power* and *wealth*—while the North-western States will oppose it of course, as they are now the principal beneficiaries of this common territory. It is scarcely probable, for instance, that Iowa would consent to receive only her share of the public lands, when she can, whenever she chooses, get as many millions of acres as she may want for the mere asking. Mr. Bell's bill will hardly be reported from the committee.

The Investigating Committee in the House has not yet made its report, in consequence of several members of Congress who were implicated having requested time to allow them to hunt up testimony and prepare a defence. One of them, Mr. Gilbert, of New York—his name has already been freely used in the newspapers, so I have no hesitation in mentioning it—has been absent so long from the city, apparently for that purpose, that it is shrewdly suspected he will not return at all. The committee has now waited until within two weeks of the close of the session, and will wait no longer. The report will probably be submitted to-morrow; and the discussion of this question and the passage of the necessary appropriation bills will probably consume all of the remainder of the session. No new business will be originated, and much of that on the calendar, particularly in the nature of private bills, will be necessarily overslaughed.

In the meantime, honorable members of the House continue the discussion of the Tariff Bill, notwithstanding the absolute certainty that it cannot be acted upon at the present session. In this connection I have heard the highest encomiums passed upon a speech which Mr. Eustis delivered a few days ago, relative to the proposed abolition of the duty on sugar, which I regret I did not have the pleasure of hearing. On all sides, it is declared to be an able and masterly defence of the sugar interests of the State which he so efficiently represents upon the floor of Congress. An observation of Mr. Eustis' entire Congressional career has led me to the opinion—biassed by no personal feeling, for I have no acquaintance with him—that Louisiana could not have here a more efficient, vigilant and reliable exponent of her interests, and this may be said without derogating from the merits of the others. It was mainly due to his vigilance, perseverance and activity, that the bill for the improvement of the mouths of the Mississippi was passed at the last session of Congress. Perhaps the youngest member of the House, he ranks already among the first men of the body.

ESSEX.

THE GREAT CIRCUS.—The performances at the Amphitheater by the triple circus to-night will be for the benefit of the beautiful little equestrienne and danseuse, Kate Ormond, and of Master Frank Barry, the precocious little bare-back rider. The numerous admirers of these miniature artists will be glad to contribute towards the spending money of those little folks, aside from the natural anxiety to make the most of the remaining five days of witnessing the best circus that will probably ever be brought together.

ENGLISH COAL.—Messrs. S. Toby, Jr. & Bro., at No. 76 Gravier street, are prepared to deliver a fine article of Wigan coal at $1 75 per barrel. It is a fine article for parlor use.

LINENS.—Messrs. P. & E. Reilly, at No. 126 Canal street, have received a large lot of plain and printed linens, which housekeepers would do well to examine. They are offering French double damask table sets at $12 50 and upwards, extra family linens at $8 per piece and upwards, and other articles in that line at proportionably cheap prices.

GREAT BARGAINS AT THE GREAT CLOTHING STORE.—Messrs. Munroe & Co., at the corner of Magazine and Gravier streets, are disposing of their stock of winter goods at prices which must tempter in an absolute duty for purchasers to go and respect. Winter is almost over; still we will have cool changes, and those who wish to be deemed by provident for such changes, as well as those who wear heavy clothing, all the time, will never have a better chance of investing their money well. Visit the clothing they can get all kinds of furnishing goods to match, and traveling articles of different kinds. See the advertisement, every body.

DESIRABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE.—Mr. F. R. Southmayd has for sale two fine dwellings will, gardens, and a number of desirable building lots, all in the Fourth District, together with three large lots fronting on the bay at Ocean Springs. See advertisement.

HOWE'S COTTON HARVESTERS.—This celebrated labor-saving machine is to be had of Mr. D. W. F. Holme, the agent, at No. 24 Commercial Place. He can supply orders to any extent, having 20,000 of them for sale.

NEW BOOKS AT MORGAN'S.—Mr. J. C. Morgan, Exchange Place, near the Post-office, has received invoices of the latest fashionable miscellaneous works of the day. All will find on the list, published in our evening department of this morning.

Desultory Theatrical Items.

BOSTON.—At Barry's, the stock company are taking their annual benefits. Mrs. Farren has closed her engagement at the Museum. "Dred" is having a run. Perhaps. Ethiopian Opera troupe are at the Peoples' National. The Manh children have met with great success at the Howard Athenæum.

NEW YORK.—Mr. Forrest has recovered from his recent indisposition, and is playing "Jack Cade" at the Broadway. Miss Heron is announced in "Medea" for the 16th, at Wallack's. She has been triumphantly successful. At Burton's Metropolitan, Brougham is playing an engagement. Laura Keene's is taken up with benefits of the members of the company. Mrs. McMahon persists in playing at Chamber's street theater. She plays to slim audiences.

PHILADELPHIA.—The Placide's are still at the Walnut street theater.

CHARLESTON.—Miss Davenport opened here on the 18th instant.

RICHMOND.—Mr. John Drew, the Irish comedian, is playing a successful engagement.

ST. LOUIS.—The Conway's are still at the St. Louis theater, where they have produced the spectacle of Faustus. Mr. J. Proctor opened at the Peoples' on the 9th, in Virginius.

CINCINNATI.—Mr. Edwin Booth continues at Woods' theater. At Bates' National, the stock company are taking benefits.

MOBILE.—Mr. Neafie closed a highly flattering engagement at Duffield's theater on Saturday night. He opens in his great characters of the Corsican Brothers, at the St. Charles to-night.

MEMPHIS.—Maggie Mitchell terminates a brilliant engagement on the 17th, and was to be succeeded by Eliza Logan.

The Marsh Juvenile troupe were to close in Boston on the 14th, and to leave for this city, where they will appear next Monday. The Keller troupe go to Mobile. The Florence's are *en route* for this city. Edwin Booth is also expected here at an early date.

MARSH'S JUVENILE COMEDIANS.—At Spalding & Rogers' Amphitheater next Monday (the circuses now there close on Friday to prepare for the juvenile wonders) we are to have this famous troupe of Lilliputian actors, who have been exciting an immense sensation in New York and Boston. They come out on the Empire City, which left New York on the 17th, and number seventy-five souls, including forty-three children, all under twelve years of age, nurses, physicians, professors of music, dancing, and the modern languages—their own orchestra, scene painters, etc., altogether the most unique family of juveniles of which we have any record, and constituting a complete ballet, operatic and dramatic company of juveniles under 12 years of age.

Our readers will recollect the exquisite dances and poses of Madam Weis's famous Viennese children, and the dramatic triumphs of the Bateman children, will still be fresh in everybody's memory. In the Marsh troupe we find an elaboration of the ideas infantile by Madam Weis and Mr. Bateman. The old English comedies are played with a spirit and truthfulness rarely met with on any stage, and their repertoire includes nearly all the popular pieces of the day. In spectacles and scenic representations they especially excel. In Boston, where they have just completed a seven weeks' engagement, we see by the papers that on their seventh and last week, every seat in the dress circle of the theater was sold at auction at a premium for six successive nights, a circumstance unprecedented, we opine, in the annals of the stage.

Of this troupe, a dozen or more are described to be stars of the first magnitude. George Marsh, only seven years old, is said to eclipse Burton himself as Toodles, and to rival our own Davidge as Jem Bags. Little Mary, eight years old, appears to be a miniature edition of Mrs. Charles Howard in her versatility and vivacity. Little Florice, seven years old, is described to be the embodiment of a fairy, an Elisler in everything but size. Christine, the prima donna of the party, only ten years old, sings like a nightingale, and Louise, an universal genius, eleven years old, is equally at home in every role; a roystering blade or puritanical orophead, a love sick swain or sentimental damsel. Besides these, they have walking gentlemen and walking ladies, old men and old women, chamber maids and clod hoppers, and all the etceteras of the most comprehensive stage company. In the most elaborate pieces the whole is sustained exclusively by these children actors, and no person over twelve years old is obtruded upon the view of the audience. Their wardrobe and paraphrenalia is like themselves, petite and elegant.

At first glance it would appear to us, that with everything sustained by juveniles, after the novelty naturally excited by such youthful artists wore off, aside from possibly now and then a flash of infantile precocity, upon the whole their productions must be unsatisfactory, and clog upon the taste of a community familiar with good acting; but we have good reason to believe that their parts are played better than is found upon most of the stages where "children of a larger growth" are the actors, and that the most grave audiences are alternately moved to tears and convulsed with laughter, utterly forgetful of the pigmy proportions of the thespians. They played thirteen weeks to crowded houses in New York, and the auction sale of seats in Boston, on their seventh week, is the best commentary upon their merit. The New York Tribune pronounced them the best stock company in that city, and little George Marsh the first low comedian in America. The Herald indulges in its usual rhapsodies and in its most approved style. And the Boston press evince a remarkable unanimity in what must be extravagant descriptions, unless the troupe be really wonderful.

Mr. Everett and Mount Vernon.

Mr. Everett still continues his patriotic exertions for the purchase of Mount Vernon. He has already placed in the hands of trustees $12,000 at 7 per cent. interest, and $500 at 6 per cent. interest—the proceeds of his oration—for the benefit of the Mount Vernon fund. The following is from the Boston Courier:

BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON.—At the solicitation of the Mercantile Library Association, Hon. Edward Everett has consented to repeat his oration upon the character of Washington, on the evening of Monday, the 23d inst., being the day following the anniversary of Washington's birth, which occurs this year on Sunday. The city government have issued orders for salutes to be fired and bells to be rung on the 23d, and for other observances commemorative of the event.

SOMERSET STREET, Jan. 27, 1857.—*Dear Sir*: I have received your letter renewing, on behalf of the Mercantile Library Association, the request which was made last year that I would repeat my oration on the character of Washington, and proposing to place at my disposal the surplus proceeds of the sale of tickets.

It will afford me pleasure to comply with the wish of the association. With regard to the disposal of the proceeds, I was, last year, in consequence of the very numerous and sometimes conflicting applications to repeat the address for the benefit of local institutions and charities, obliged to confine myself to its repetition in aid of the fund for the purchase of Mount Vernon. The attainment of that object may be delayed, from the unwillingness of the proprietor to part with it, and other causes; but I cannot doubt that it will eventually become public property; and, in the meantime, as I understand, the efforts of the directors of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to raise the requisite funds will not be relaxed.

I have accordingly placed in the hands of trustees the sums already received by me, without any deduction, to be held till they can be effectually applied in aid of the purchase. Should it, at some future time, be decided upon hereafter, be judged impossible by the trustees to effect the purchase, then the sums in trust to be applied to some other object of national interest, commemorative of Washington.

To this fund, thus held in trust, I shall add whatever else may at any future time come into my hands for the repetition of this oration.

I remain, dear sir, with great regard,

Very truly yours,

MR. EDWARD W. FOSTER, EDWARD EVERETT.

TRUE CREOLE VOLCANO.—The Cumberland (Md.) Telegraph reaffirms the statement that an actual and active volcano exists in Pendleton county, Va., and says:

It is at a point on the mountain directly between the heads of the dry fork of Cheat and the south branch of Potomac rivers, at a place known by the name of the "Sinks," so called from the depressed condition