New Orleans Daily Crescent.

RAILROAD TO THE PACIFIC.

The interruption to the regular proceedings of Congress, caused by the late Convention at Charleston, and the further interruptions which will yet occur in consequence of other conventions to be held, will, we very much fear, imperil the passage of some equitable bill for the construction of a railroad to the Pacific. We do not refer, of course, to the proposition reported in the House of Representatives by Mr. Curtis, of Iowa, the Chairman of the Special Committee on that subject. That proposition, as we have already shown, is so manifestly partial, sectional and exclusive, that it can never command the favor of the representatives from the central and southern portions of the Union. It provides for the building of two roads, it is true—but they are to start from the western borders of the States of Iowa and Missouri, respectively, and unite at some common point upon the plains, and thence proceed westward, by a single stem, to the Pacific. Obviously, such a road will be in the interest of the Northern system of railroads through Illinois and Ohio, and will be equivalent to a complete ignoring of the superior claims of the Southern route. This policy is not only sectional and unjust, but it is a virtual defeat of the whole scheme—for it is plain that no proposition of the sort can command the approval of Congress unless it be sustained by *all* the friends of a railroad connection with the Pacific.

But, that which we have advocated and shall continue to advocate, is the only proposition which can secure the assent of Congress, at the same time that it fulfils all the conditions of fairness, and justice, and equality. It is to provide for the construction of two roads, one upon the Northern and one upon the Southern route. There has not been any year, for several years past, in which there was not a secure majority in both Houses of Congress for aid to a Pacific Railroad. Why then has the enterprise failed to go through? Why does Congress still hesitate and temporize in the matter, and fail to meet the just expectations and requirements of the public? It is because of the jealousy of conflicting routes, and the destructive rivalry which has been indulged in by indiscreet friends of the different propositions. Common sense ought to teach them that such a course defeats every prospect of *any* road, and ought to warn them that it is worse than the policy of the dog in the manger, which denies to themselves a benefit for fear that others may equally participate in it.

A Northern road cannot be provided for without the assistance of the South, nor can a road be made upon a Southern parallel of latitude without the concurrence of the representatives of the North. In this conflict of interest, a compromise is the only feasible way of adjusting the difficulty. It is very plain that if a Northern road be made, the South will never be content until she be placed upon a footing of equality. The same will be true of the North if a Southern road be built. Manifestly, then, any purely sectional road will give rise to dissatisfaction and discontent. There is no possible solution of the difficulty other than two lines of road—one connecting with the Northern system of roads, which extend to the Atlantic coast at New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore—and the other connecting with the great commercial cities of the Lower Mississippi Valley and the Gulf of Mexico.

We trust, then, that Congress will no longer hesitate in its duty in the premises. The friends of railway communication with the Pacific cannot afford any longer to fritter away their opportunities in senseless opposition to each other, destroying all chance of consummating this great enterprise, for fear some particular interest may get the advantage of another. The friends of the Southern route are willing to display the utmost liberality, and to concede to others all that they ask for themselves. Let their overtures be met in an equal spirit of liberality, and the day is not far distant when the political ties which bind the Pacific coast to the Union will be strengthened by a commercial and social ligament which promises, in every respect, to be productive of the grandest results.

CLOSE OF THE VARIETIES THEATER.

JOHN OWENS' BENEFIT.—Saturday night wound up the theatrical fun of the season on Gravier street, in the shape of a benefit to John Owens, which turned out to be not only a "bumper at parting," but a regular rouser of a benefit.

Right glad were we to see the complimentary offering of the Varietes company so cordially approved and ratified by the public. Of all the brilliant, fashionable and crowded audiences, which have exalted the Varieties during the past season, there has been none to eclipse the audience of Saturday night. The dress circle was a perfect rainbow of feminine beauty; and the manner in which the parquette and second circle were invaded by the fair daughters of Eve, was a feature as notable as any. As for the gentlemen, they were lucky devils and poor devils; the lucky ones occupying the scattering seats among the ladies, and the poor ones plastered around against the walls, crammed in the corners and doors, and seated on the floor-steps in the different aisles. The appetite to see the last performance at the Varieties, and the bumper to John Owens, was perfectly prodigious.

The pretty play of "Andy Blake," with Mrs. John Wood as the Irish peasant hero *Andy*, was given with great effect. Then followed the laughable farce of "The Mummy," with John Owens as *Toby Tromp*, the strapped tragedian, who plays the mummy for a consideration. The Zouave March and Dixie's Land Chorus, from "Po-ca-hontas," came next in order. Last of all was given the nautical comic piece of "The Spitfire," with Owens as old *Shortcut*.

We need not dwell upon the performances further than to state that Owens let himself out, Mrs. Wood ditto, Mr. Davenport ditto, Miss Denin ditto, Messrs. Morris and Morton ditto, and all the rest ditto. We never enjoyed a feast of fun and pleasure in which the dishes were more spiritedly or deliciously served up by the actresses and actors. The audience were delighted to enthusiasm from first to last, and left with the feeling that they had been lucky in being present.

At the end of the second piece, "The Mummy," Mr. Owens remained outside the curtain, and made something of a speech, the chief points of which were his thankfulness for the liberal and fashionable patronage which had honored and sustained the theater during the past season, the favor with which he had been received as actor and manager, the compliment paid him by his company and the public on the present occasion, and his determination to offer next season a series of attractions to eclipse, if possible, those of the past.

John made this speech in his comical dress and paint as the *Mummy*; in order, we suspect, to conceal the emotion which would have betrayed itself too visibly in his proper appearance as a citizen; and the audience, in listening to him, seemed to forget the oddity of the thing in hearing a speech so earnest and so feeling, notwithstanding it was from what appeared to be a resurrected Egyptian of three thousand years ago.

From the opening to the closing, the Varieties season has been a triumph, and next season it will be the same, if not a little more so.

The Fight for the Championship.

We reproduce our account of this combat, and, as it was a purely English account, feel bound to give the best and most reliable American report published. The discrepancies in the report in Bell's Life need hardly be noticed. It says that in the last round Heenan could not see Sayers, but "hit and knocked down one of his unsuspecting seconds;" and in the next paragraph states that he ran—after the fight was over—some distance, "like a deer, *leaping two hedges*." We think that few blind men would venture to run in such a rash manner, and if they should, the hedges would be sadly in their way. Heenan was certainly not blinded, and that report was gotten up to serve the purpose of an excuse to declare a draw. Our English cousins had best acknowledge the defeat of their champion at once, and not attempt to sneak out of it in so contemptible in a manner.

RIO GRANDE CORRESPONDENCE.

Short History of the Cortina War—Some Idea of the Man and his Plans—Desperate Design to Re-conquer a part of Texas—Robberies, Murders and Menaces to be Used to Drive us from the Rio Grande—The Failure and the Consequences—Our Natural Boundary.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.]

BROWNSVILLE, April 26, 1860.

Mr. Editor—To dispel any doubt as to the position of affairs on this river, a short historical relation of facts may not be out of place. Before the annexation of Texas, Mexico always claimed that her eastern boundary extended to the Nueces. President Polk found the question an open one when he came into power, but between her own opinions and those of the immortal Gen. Taylor, the conclusion was arrived at that Old Zach should move from Corpus Christi and occupy the east bank of the Rio Grande, and "take the chances." That movement brought about the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, and the subsequent war, in which the boundary dispute was settled, and we were allowed to hold dominion on the right bank of the Rio Grande.

This settlement did not conform to Mexican notions, and ever since the Dexican population have labored under two very considerable errors—one as to how this valley was lost to them, and the other as to its destiny. Honestly and truly the majority of the Mexican population think they were *sold* and not *beaten* out of this country; and very honestly and foolishly they believe that the programme can be so altered that the Nueces instead of the Rio Grande can be yet made the boundary. You may say all this is absurd; but I ask you what is to be expected from so ignorant a people, when there are thousands of men in the United States who believe that the South would fail to sustain itself if cut loose from Boston. Men will be monomaniacs on some subjects, and the peculiar idiosyncracy of the Mexican is that he is a terrible fellow in the tented field!

The idea of recapturing the country between the Rio Grande and the Nueces is peculiarly the idea with Cortina, and it has been his pot-house boast for the last ten years that it was his destiny to accomplish this result. He has boasted of it in the presence of Americans, and many of them, I am sorry to learn, have assented thoughtlessly to his bragadocio. We have such a faculty for trading that rather than "spile a bargain" some of us will affirm the most preposterous assertions; and in many instances I have heard it charged that Cortina has often declared in the hearing of Mexicans, when Americans were present and not denying it, that Gen. Houston and his friends were in favor of giving up this section to Mexico. When such stories have been uttered year after year in Matamoras and throughout the State of Tamaulipas, what more was to be expected than that the people who heard them should be in favor of filibustering a part of Texas.

The project ripened as time grew on, but it required just such a man as Cortina to attempt the execution of the scheme. He did not go into it foolishly either, for he played a safe game, having two objects, one of which he intended should not fail if the principal plan did fall through. He is a bold, desperate, shrewd and commanding man; his plan partakes of all these characteristics. In order to make himself popular with his own countrymen, he became a bully, carrying his six-shooter regularly, fighting when required, and maintaining at his mother's ranche a rendezvous for all the desperate Mexicans he could find. At that rendezvous Americans were habitually and traditionally hated and despised, and none of the forbidden race could hope for civil treatment unless under peculiar circumstances. He next became a politician to the extent of carrying all his clan with him to the polls and buying favor with the candidates by the strength of his influence in an election. He thus made a party with the Mexicans and with the Americans, whereby he became so powerful that he walked the country with impunity, while the archives of the District Court of Cameron county contained an indictment for murder of an American, and two indictments for stealing against him, for which he was never even arrested. In fact, one of the sliees of this county is known as the Plaquemine of Cortina.

With these indictments against him, and with grave suspicions in the public mind that he was guilty of other crimes, he yet came and went as the most innocent did. All this consolidated his strength to such an extent that when the American garrison was withdrawn from here, he prepared to carry out "his idea."

He collected a large number of Mexicans at his ranche and there armed them; for on no other supposition can it be accounted for how he so suddenly appeared in the field at the head of 180 men. To bring about the final catastrophe, he came into Brownsville on the 13th of last July, with a follower of his. The latter soon became intoxicated and commenced a row in the streets. He was arrested by the City Marshal, Mr. Shiers, and started to the lock up. Cortina came up and told the Marshal to release the man, which was refused. Cortina then stepped back, drew his revolver and deliberately shot the Marshal twice, one ball grazing his head and the other taking effect in his shoulder. The Marshal fell, and Cortina then mounted his horse, took his drunken accomplice up behind him, and flourishing his pistol, defied the town to take him, while he rode away to his ranche.

After the above offense he lived at his ranche and in Matamoras, all the while defying the law and still committing crimes. Ultimately a party was made up to go from this place and capture him, but he made his escape into Mexico. In September he suddenly reappeared on the other side of the river and made an attack upon this place the 28th of that month. He brought with him on that occasion a body of 100 men, more or less, and surrounded the town, and his demand was that the citizens who had volunteered to go out and capture him should be given up to death. Not finding all of them, he proposed to burn down the town, and actually murdered in cold blood five citizens who were running away. One of these men, Geo. Morris, was killed by the United States flag staff inside of Fort Brown barracks. Cortina was at last persuaded to leave town by the Mexicans from Matamoras, whose property would have been involved in the general conflagration.

You are acquainted with the remaining facts of the case so far as this immediate city was concerned—how it was besieged—how it was gallantly defended for two months—how mighty attacks were made upon it—how out-houses were burned—how terror prevailed everywhere; but you cannot know, for it has never been told, how the country along the river has suffered.

As I said, Cortina had two plans, one of which was to harrass the people in such a way that they would leave, and another was to steal and rob enough to pay him well even if he failed. Thousands of horses and cattle have been robbed and run off; scores of farms have been devastated, the houses burned, the fences torn up and the crops trodden down, and, as a last resort, the Mexicans who served our people in every capacity, were driven off to the other side of the Rio Grande. By this means he paid his men and discouraged us. But he failed to accomplish his great purpose, for the Americans are yet on the Rio Grande, and the prospect is that he has called into existence an influence which will follow him until he is glad to live west of the Sierra Madre.

However, he is still in the field, and his resources are not affected. He has the sympathy of all his countrymen, and there is still game for his followers on this side of the Rio Grande. As long as he can find cattle to stampede from American farmers on this river, as long as he can murder and rob stock traders, as long as he can sell our beef hides in Matamoras, so long will he continue to follow the business, until we take the matter into our own hands and establish institutions of a more friendly nature on the west bank of the Bravo.

And this consummation is not so distant as your pions and conservative readers may imagine. We have never turned our back upon a foe, and I hardly think we shall commence at this late date. The boundaries of our republic have a constant necessity for expansion, as history proves, and the Rio Grande is not of sufficient volume to stop its onward career. Necessity requires that we should have the country between the Rio Bravo and the Sierra Madre, and the causes are silently at work which will develop the position.

HAVANA CORRESPONDENCE.

Special to the New Orleans Crescent.]

HAVANA, May 3, 1860.

Mr. Editor—On Monday morning last Don Gregino de Heredrio Tejada, the Alcalde Mayor of the Colin District of this city, held an open court (the first open court I have ever known held in this city) in the hall of the Ayuntamiento, at the south side of the Palace, for the preliminary trial of the accused assassins of the late Don Antonio Gonizales Agueroa, who are named Eulogio Pardo, Duclheo Valvez and Ceferino de Cardenas, who are negroes, and two white men named Francisco Jimenes y Zamora and Domingo Palma. The novelty of the proceedings attracted a great crowd, and I was unable to obtain a very good position for either hearing the proceedings or seeing the formalities observed. As far as I could see or learn, the accused men were not present, but were represented by their lawyers. The proceedings opened by the prosecuting attorney reading the indictment, as we should term it, and the immense mass of evidence and examinations, alike of witnesses and of the accused, which occupied about two hours, and then proceeded with an impassioned address to the Court against the accused, urging that the negroes should suffer by the "vile Garotte" and the white men be sent to penal servitude in "Africa (Ceuta, I suppose) for ten years the accused to pay the costs incurred, and to indemnify the family of the murdered man."

The accused were ably defended by Señor Doctor Don Antonio Gonzales de Mendosa, who defended Pardo, Don Mirales Lemus and Don Ponce de Llorente y Cordotre, who appeared for Cardenas, Zamora and Palmas. The defence of Valvez, his defender, Señor Fepernot, being unable to be present, was read. As far as I could comprehend, from the distance at which I stood from the speakers, the white men were "accessories *before* the fact," or, in other words, had regularly *hired* the negro assassins to murder the deceased gentleman, and all the accused having confessed their guilt, their several defenders could only ask for an amelioration of the punishment. His Honor, the Alcalde, not possessing the power of passing such severe sentences, committed the accused, and no doubt guilty men, for trial before the "Real Audiencia Pretorial," Supreme Court, which was understood to have been engaged with the case yesterday. I have not heard, at the early hour of my present writing, what was the decision of the "Real Audiencia," which court sits with closed doors to the public.

The newly discovered explosive substance, called "Latro Factor," is so little liable to accidental combustion that it is permitted by the authorities to be deposited or transferred from place to place with the ordinary precautions against fire to which any other simple combustible substance is subjected.

An artesian well is being dug at Cienfuegos, and a depth of one hundred and seven *varas* (Spanish yards) has been attained. The works are being proceeded with with great energy.

The French war steamer Lucifer sailed 29th ult., of which I was not aware when last writing to you.

The Spanish ship Paquete de Cantabia in lat. 23° 15' N. and lon. 37° 49' W., captured a bird with a paper attached to it, on which was written in French, "Ship Maria et Celine; under the tropic of Cancer, April 1st, 1860. Restore the bird his liberty." Was this an April fool day trick? If it were, it is silly enough, Mercy knows.

Extensive wooden barracks for soldiers are being erected on the hill above the Cabana fortifications.

The recent heavy rains carried away a bridge on the Havana Railroad between San Felipe and Guara, a distance of about forty miles from this city.

The Cuban Messenger will soon make its "bow to the public."

I was in the office yesterday and found some four or five compositors "hard at work." I deem it but justice to its editors to observe they will have to write under a rigid censorship, and be exposed to heavy penalties for the most trifling infraction of the rules prescribed for the "press."

Yet I doubt not they will be enabled to produce a valuable commercial and generally entertaining weekly sheet.

The receipt of the donations in aid of the war against Morocco, from the municipalities of Santiago, Remedios, Guantanamo and Las Tunas is acknowledged by order of the Queen in the official Government paper of 2d inst.

A patent for five years is granted to Don Narciso Rodriguez Moreno for an improvement (?) in the flaps of saddles, which renders them capable of carrying clothes, papers, etc., without danger of getting wet!

The Spanish mail steamer Almogabar arrived the evening of the 1st inst., with dates from Cadiz to 12th ult, and telegraphic advices from Madrid to 5 P. M. of 11th ult. She brought the mails, etc., and one hundred and thirty-four passengers.

A person named Martinez, who came from the interior of the Island, was arrested a few evenings ago at the Posada de la Campa, having a quantity of false money in his possession, and whose papers were not in due order.

The 2d Battalion of the Volunteros of this city exhibited their skill at firing at a target, 30th ult. An old Kentuckian, who was present, said any boy of ten years of age in his State would beat the best marksman among them.

The brig Merryman from New Orleans arrived at Matanzas, 30th ult., and the Philip Larrabee at Cardenas the same day. As ever, ***

Arrival of the DeSoto.

The U. S. Mail steamship DeSoto, J. D. Bulloch, commander, from New York via Havana, arrived Saturday night, making the run from the latter port in fifty-seven hours, with merchandise and passengers, to James Connly & Co.

During the passage from New York to Havana the DeSoto experienced the severest gale that has been felt on the coast for a number of years, and was compelled to lay to for fourteen hours, the sea being so high that it was unsafe to keep on her course.

At Havana business was quiet, and not much change in the markets. Health of the city good.

Stock of Sugar 250,000 boxes; Molasses going up. [See our "Commercial Correspondence."]

Freights still firm, and the demand for vessels good. Fifty ships cleared from Havana two days previous to the arrival of the DeSoto at that port.

May 1st, P. M.—Off N. W. point of Matanilla, passed ship Onward, of New York, bound North.

May 3, P. M.—Bark Wheatland, of Baltimore, passed the Moro, bound to Sagua la Grande.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—We are indebted to Messrs. J. C. Morgan & Co., for the following list of new works: "History of France," by Park Goodwin, vol. 1, commencing with Ancient Gaul, and terminating with Dissolution of the Empire of the Franks. "Inventions and Discoveries in Science and the Useful Arts"—John Timbs, author. It seems to contain a great deal of information in a moderate space, treating of the inventions of Archimedes, the magnet, gunpowder, barometer, time-keepers, steam engine, cotton manufactures, electricity, caoutchouc, gutta percha, the telegraph, etc., with engravings. "The Caxtons"—Bulwer—handsomely bound. "The Three Pines." One of the Rainbow and Lucky stories, for children, by Jacob Abbott. "Eclectic Magazine" for May' "Blackwood" for February and March, and "North British Review" for February.

CREDIT SALE.—Boots, shoes, brogans, spring and summer clothing, white shirts, etc. We call the attention of the trade to the sale of boots, shoes and brogans, clothing, white shirts, etc., to take place this day, at 10 o'clock A. M., at Bache & Leaumont's auction rooms, No. 69 Chartres street. Terms at sale.

PAINTER WANTED.—See advertisement.

SEASONABLE CLOTHING.—While persons are going the rounds examining different stocks, they would do remarkably well to step in at Mr. Robert Gribble's establishment, corner of Camp and Gravier streets. Any gentleman who advertises as well as he does must do business on a liberal and comprehensive scale. And then, his stand is about the center of everywhere. See advertisement.

TELEGRAPHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP BOHEMIAN.

COTTON ACTIVE.

Latest Commercial and General Intelligence.

[BY THE NATIONAL AND AMERICAN LINES.]

FARTHER POINT, May 6.—The steamship Bohemian, Capt. W. Grange, of the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company's line, arrived off this point, on her way to Quebec, this afternoon.

The Bohemian left Liverpool on Wednesday, April 25, touched at Queenstown the following day, and brings four days later news than was received by the Cunard steamship Canada.

The following is a brief summary of her news, prepared by the agent of the Associated Press at Liverpool:

Commercial Intelligence.

LIVERPOOL, April 25.—The sales of the three days ending the 24th, in the Liverpool Cotton market, were 36,000 bales, of which speculators and exporters each took 13,000 bales. The market closed generally active and somewhat steadier. The holders are offering their stock freely, but show no disposition to press the sales, which prevents an improvement in the market.

LONDON, April 25.—The English funds continue steady, and in some cases seem to have an upward tendency. Consols for money closed at 94⅝ to 94¾.

The International Fight.

The English papers say that nothing has been decided regarding the great international prize fight. The decisions of the referees are still withheld. Both parties seem willing to renew the combat.

LATEE FROM MEXICO.

ARRIVAL OF THE SCHOONER EMILY KEITH.

SOUTHWEST PASS, May 5.—The schooner Emily Keith has arrived at this Pass, with dates from Vera Cruz to the 27th ult.

The Keith will proceed up the river with the mails and passengers from Mexico this noon.

The Mexican news by this arrival possesses nothing of special interest. The city of Vera Cruz was in very good health and quiet.

The Liberal army had been victorious in several small engagements with the Church party.

The Emily Keith left anchored under the castle of San Juan de Ulea the United States sloops of war Brooklyn and Saratoga, and the gunboat Pocahontas.

On the 21st ult. the bark Rapids left Vera Cruz for New York.

Several French and Spanish men-of-war were at Sacrificios.

When the schooner left Vera Cruz there were no vessels in port for New Orleans.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Mails for Europe.

NEW YORK, May 6.—The United States steamship Vanderbilt left this port at noon to-day for Southampton and Havre.

The Vanderbilt took out $6,000,000 in specie on freight.

A large portion of this amount goes to Liverpool for the purpose of strengthening the Cotton market.

The mails of Tuesday, the 1st inst., and the telegraphic dispatches of yesterday, 4th inst., from New Orleans, were taken out by her.

Circulars by the Steamship Canada.

NEW YORK, May 5.—Messrs. George Holt & Co., in their circular by the Canada, report Cotton closed irregular, and declined ¼ to 1-16 during the week. They quote Middling Orleans at 6⅝d., and Middling Uplands at 6d.

The circular of James Hewitt & Co. reports a decline of ¼ to 1-16 on the week.

It reckons the amount of Cotton received in Liverpool during the week at 112,000 bales.

Charles Saunders' Prices Current quotes a decline of ¼ on better grades, and says the market is very unsettled on lower qualities.

The Great Prize Fight to be Renewed.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The steamship Canada brings the following intelligence regarding the great international prize fight which took place at Ash, near Farnham, on the morning of the 17th ultimo.

John C. Heenan is altogether dissatisfied with the conduct of the ruffians for having rushed into the ring, leaving the fight undecided.

The Benicia Boy, as soon as he recovers from his bruises, is anxious to meet Sayers in the prize ring to decide the great fight for the world's championship.

Sayers, it is said, is willing to fight Heenan at any moment he may name, in order to decide who is the "best man."

United States Deputy Marshals Dismissed.

NEW YORK, May 5.—Mr. Mann and Theo. Rynders, two United States Deputy Marshals, have been dismissed from their office for alleged complicity in aiding the escape of the supposed slaver, Storm King, which recently left this port for the coast of Africa.

The Cotton Scheme.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—It is reported that the Government of Belgium has advanced funds to Mr. Baylor, late American Consul at Manchester and Hamburg, for the purpose of opening a central cotton export agency in the city of Baltimore.

Arrival of the Cahawba.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The mail steamship Cahawba, J. W. Smith, commander, from New Orleans via Havana, reached her pier at noon to-day.

The Cahawba left Havana on the 30th ult., but her commercial as well as political news has been fully anticipated by the steamship Habana at New Orleans.

Sailing of the City of Baltimore.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The steamship City of Baltimore, of the New York, Liverpool and Philadelphia line, left her wharf at noon to-day.

The City of Baltimore took out $560,000 in specie on freight.

The latest New Orleans mails for Europe taken out by her were those of Tuesday, the 1st inst., and the latest telegraphic dispatches from the same point are those of yesterday, the 4th inst.

Congressional Proceedings.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—In the House of Representatives to-day, the proceedings were generally unimportant.

The greater part of the day was consumed in discussing the question of slavery and the present state of affairs, which are now the all-absorbing topics throughout the country.

Domestic Markets.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The Cotton market closed steady and generally unchanged. The sales amounted to 1200 bales. Middling Uplands are quoted at 11½c. The flour market closed dull and declined 5c. since yesterday; the sales foot up 5750 bbls.; Superfine State is selling at $5 45 to $5 50. Corn closed dull; there were 4000 bushels sold at 78 to 83c. per bushel. Eastern Mess Pork is selling at $17 75 to $17 82½. Lard closed firm; the sales amounted to 550 bbls.; the prices ranged from 10¾ to 11¼c. per pound. Sugar closed buoyant; there were 2500 hhds. of Cuba and Muscovado sold to-day for 6¾ to 6¾c. per lb. Molasses closed steady; the sales of Cuba and Muscovado foot up 50 bbls., at 26 to 28c. per gallon.

CINCINNATI, May 5.—Flour closed active, and is selling at $5 60 to $5 65 per bbl. Whisky is selling at 17½c. per gallon. Corn closed active at yesterday's quotations. Pork closed firm; new Mess is quoted at $17 25c. per bbl. Lard sold at 10½c. per lb.

River Intelligence.

LOUISVILLE, May 5.—The Ohio river at this point continues to recede, with 5 feet 9 inches of water in the canal.

ST. LOUIS, May 5.—The Mississippi river at this point is about stationary, and in good navigable order.

The Upper Mississippi is swelling gradually. The Illinois and Missouri rivers are falling very slowly, but are in good boating order.

COMPOSITION PIPES—*For Gas-Fitters' Purposes.* See advertisement of B. C. Lowber & Co., 73 Camp street.

Local Intelligence.

CORRECTION.—In our report, on Saturday, of the gold watch testimonial presented to the Hon. James Beggs by a number of the fire companies, in acknowledgment of his services in procuring them charters at the last session of the Legislature, we inadvertently included Orleans Fire Company No. 21 in the list. The charter of this company was obtained by its founder and present active member, the Hon. John L. Lamothe.

THE MAY FESTIVITIES.—The sweet month of sunshine and flowers has never been more pleasantly or poetically observed than this year.

To begin with, May-night was most charmingly celebrated at Odd Fellows' Hall by Professor Vegas and his multitudes of friends, big and little. An extended account of this affair, such as it deserved, we had intended publishing; but the stern necessity of attending to graver and more important matters has prevented us. But we cannot let the event pass without some notice, if for no more than to express the perfect pleasure we enjoyed in being present. The sumptuous lanterni-lit arbors which covered the front of the hall outside; the wealth of greenery which converted the entrance-hall into a garden avenue; and the decorations of the large dancing hall, all showed that the gallant little Professor had lost none of his former taste or disposition to please. The throne of the May Queen, at the head of the hall, was a lavish and exquisitely gotten up affair, with its arches and draperies of spangles and many colors, reaching to the lofty ceiling.

The great multitude of ladies and gentlemen who were present will not speedily forget the charming scene of the coronation, in which pretty Alice Slawson was crowned Queen of the Night, with Clara Delesdernier and M. Gower for her Evening and Morning Stars; Matilda Simon for her Night Star; Georgiana Smith, Delia Madden, Adda Bailey and Kate Slawson for her fairies; Cora Cassidy, A. E. Gordon, Augusta Lauraine and Ann I. Moody for her Cupids; and Louis Overton for her rollicking little Bacchus; as sweet a crowd of children as ever got together. This ceremony, the opening of the ball by the queen, and the dancing of the children which followed—whirling about like sprites beneath the flash of the chandeliers, an enchanting, moving picture, the frame of which consisted of the larger beauty and loveliness of the city, seated all around the hall in ranks three or four deep, with the gentlemen wedged around behind—were so many courses in the feast of poetic delights. The fancy dances by some of the little boys and girls were such as have been seldom equaled, even by the Professor's own accomplished *proteges* of former years.

Towards midnight the children gave up the floor to the grown folks, and the scene of unalloyed pleasure which followed and lasted till nearly daylight, may be readily imagined by all who have ever had the pleasure of being present at one of Professor Vegas' balls. All left, sated almost with enjoyment, but still with a regretful thought that another year must roll away ere another party of the kind would appear in the programme of our city festivities.

On May night, also, there was a charming and largely attended May party at Union Hall, in the Fourth District. We regretted that we could not visit it, but are pleased to know that all who were there had a glorious time of it.

Yesterday the Turners' May Festival began, on the grassy award and beneath the shade of the live-oaks back of the Delachaise Ground, in Jefferson City. The Turners, in their neat linen uniforms and belts, and with banners and music, marched up yesterday morning, provided with all the needfuls to have a right royal time of it throughout the day and night. The festival will continue to-day, and will doubtless be visited by thousands, the Carrollton cars affording easy access to it.

The Louisiana Grays yesterday morning went out a Maying, and brought back a handsomely riddled target and other evidences of having had a right pleasant day of it.

The Spanish Benevolent Association celebrated their anniversary yesterday. The members turned out in full force, with bands of music and their banner and flags gorgeously decorated. As they marched through the streets, they presented a very handsome appearance. The march was followed by a ride in the Pontchartrain cars and a feast at Miguel's, one of the best ever spread at the Lake. They had a glorious time of it down there, and returned to the city satisfied.

Next Friday night a May party is to be given at the Robertson School, in the Second District; Madame Dubois, the kind and motherly principal, invariably treating her pupils and their families and friends to a May party. The lady has our thanks for polite invitations, which we shall be sure to honor.

The great German Volksfest, to take place the following week, will be an affair for the million, and will be the ending of this year's May festivities.

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY.—Capt. Walton's company are making due preparations for their visit next week to the military encampment at Mobile. They will have a fine time of it, and will doubtless be able to show the Alabama soldiery a thing or two before they leave.

DANGEROUSLY INJURED.—Mr. James Campbell, the builder, had an altercation on Saturday evening with Peter Roach, a carpenter in his employ, the result of which was, that Campbell seized a piece of timber and gave Roach a blow on the head which injured him very seriously. The story we hear is, that Roach wanted to lay the flooring in a new building before it was slated over, to which Campbell objected; that Roach insisted, and finally became quarrelsome and abusive; that Campbell declined a difficulty, and walked away; that Roach followed him up, still continuing his abuse; that Campbell picked up a stick of wood, and warned him that if he did not let him alone, he would knock him down, after which he threw the stick away; and that Roach went at him again, upon which Campbell again picked up the stick and gave him a blow over the head. A son of Roach's picked up the stick afterward, and was making a rush at Campbell, when other parties caught and held him. As Roach was able to walk away, afterward, with the assistance of friends, it was not thought he was seriously hurt; but upon reaching home he became senseless, and yesterday he was believed to be in a very critical condition, the blow having either fractured his skull or caused a concussion of the brain. Campbell was yesterday arrested on Nayades street, by Lieut. Dryden and Corporal Clarke, and locked up to await the result.

FATAL ACCIDENTS—*An Ex-Army Officer Killed.* Lieut. C. Balvoid, formerly of the U. S. Army, fell accidentally from the boiler deck to the main deck of the steamer Rapides, whilst coming down the river on Friday last, and was so badly injured that he died on Saturday morning, just before the boat reached the city. Coroner Beach held an inquest on the body, and returned a verdict of accidental death. The deceased was a native of New York, about thirty-five years of age, and it is said was wealthy.

Young Man Drowned.—As Wm. Rogers, an Irish youth, eighteen years old, was going aboard the ship Donati, to which he belonged, at 11 o'clock on Saturday night, he fell from the railing into the river, striking the wharf in his descent, and was drowned. He was seen to fall, and every effort made to save him; ropes were thrown to him before he sunk, but, probably senseless from the fall against the wharf, he did not seize them, and sank to rise no more.

Death on the Track.—From the Jefferson Journal of Saturday we learn that on Friday, at ten o'clock, as the express train on the New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad was passing the residence of Samuel J. Peters, Esq., an unknown man was discovered on the track, and before the train could be stopped was run into, and so dangerously injured that he died in a short time afterward. From the circumstances of the case, there appears to be some doubt as to whether it was an accident, or the intention of the individual thus to end his life. It appears he had been lying in some bushes opposite Mr. Peters' house, and seeing the train coming up, got up and went foward to the track, and as the train came up, either fell down or stooped down voluntarily, when he was caught by the cow-catcher, knocking him off the track and inflicting a terrible gash on the head, from which he died about an hour afterward. The Coroner was sent for.

DANGEROUSLY SHOT.—Frank John and Henry Myers were arrested on Saturday night, on Liberty street, in the Fourth District, by officers Sheehan and McGregor; Frank John charged upon information with having shot and dangerously wounded Adam Averhart, and Myers charged with aiding and abetting the shooting. We heard no further particulars of the affair.

MAGNOLIA BASE BALL CLUB.—The following score was made by the Magnolia boys in their battle at Algiers yesterday:

CHANDLER'S SIDE.		C. MEISTER'S SIDE.	
Chandler, c	1	C. Meister, c	5
G. Meister, s. s	2	G. Delamore, l. f	4
Kelly, 1st b	8	Stinson 1st b	4
P. Linzy, r. f	1	Moore, 2d b	3
M. Carroll, p	2	Swanson, p	3
Kleemeyer, 3d b	9	Lawrence 3d b	3
Seither, l. f	1	Wagner, r f	4
P. Guerin, 2d b	2	H. Wallace, s. s	[illegible]
F. Lewis, c. f. Spalding	3	Keeler, c f	3
Tocany, f	2	Easton, f	3
Fisher, f	1	Tracy, f	1
Total runs	18	Total runs	32

On next Sunday, 13th inst., a match will be played between the Magnolia and Empire Clubs at the Delachaise Ground.

MURDER OF A POLICEMAN.—Officer Oscar Somers, a faithful and energetic policeman, who had served for some years, and who lately had been stationed at night on that worst of all beats, the upper steamboat landing, had his throat cut, and was instantly killed, at about ten o'clock last night. At the same time, Wm. Condon, quartermaster of the steamship Habana, was dangerously stabbed in the left side.

The dead body of Somers was carried to the First District Lock-up. Condon was taken to the Charity Hospital.

John Mulholland, a fireman belonging to the steamship Habana, was arrested as the murderer, by officer McMullen. (Somers' partner on the levee) and the same officer arrested John Hobson, a striker belonging to the steamboat Ophelia, and Peter McCabe, a coal-bearer belonging to the Habana, as accessories to the bloody affair.

The lateness of the hour prevented us from obtaining particulars enough to give a clear or straight story of the affair.

Hobson, the striker, said the fuss started in a coffeehouse on the levee, near the steamship landing, between Mulholland and a pock-marked sailor whose name was unknown. The row was continued outside of the coffeehouse, and progressed out on the levee, numerous parties being concerned.

All were more or less drunk. Officer Somers came to do his duty; one man picked up a stick of wood and commenced fighting with it; another fired off a pistol. Some one cried out, "I am killed!" and a general stampede took place. It was a very much mixed up piece of business, which will give the Coroner some trouble. It was found that the man who said he was killed was Somers.

Mulholland, Hobson and McCabe were arrested on the steamship, to which they had retreated after the shooting and cutting on the levee. Officer McMullen did a good and brave thing in arresting all three.

Somers was a discreet and well-behaved, but determined and fearless officer; a man of family; and it was a sad, a very sad thing, to see him stretched out at the Lock-up, stark and stiff, his neck gashed, and his body covered with blood—all for bravely attempting to do his duty. Coroner Beach will sit about his inquest this morning.

Somers was an exempt member of Philadelphia Fire Company No. 14, and at a late hour the foreman of that company requested us to state that his funeral will take place from the engine-house, on Common street, at three o'clock this afternoon, to which the Fire Department generally are invited to attend.

SERVED HIM RIGHT, THE BRUTE!—Recorder Adams on Saturday made John Schilling pay $25 for violently thrashing his wife. Such unpoetic ebullitions of passion are not tolerated or let off cheaply in the Garden District.

DISCHARGED.—Thomas Dunn, charged with helping himself to $67 out of the money drawer of John Moran's grocery, corner of Basin and Clio streets, was on Saturday discharged by Recorder Summers, Moran failing to appear against him.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.—Two inquests were held yesterday: one on the body of Mary Ann Sartes, German, forty-nine years of age, at 222 Marigny street—verdict, disease of the heart; and the other on the body of Mrs. Bridget McCabe, Irish, forty years of age, at No. 45 Main street—verdict, intemperance.

ARREST OF GEN. MILES' SLAVE GIRL LOUISE.—Some five or six weeks ago, it may be remembered, a valuable slave girl and about $5000 worth of diamond jewelry disappeared simultaneously from the residence of General Miles, in the Fourth District. The detective police have been on the look-out ever since, and on Saturday evening officers Boylan, Howard and Farrell found her. She had latterly been secreted in the house of a free negro named Charles Bell, alias Miles, disguised as a boy, wearing boy's clothing, and her wool cut off short. Both she and her entertainer, Bell, were locked up to await examination. The story, or confession of Louise was, that two free colored men, bright mulattoes, had put her up to the robbery, promising to take her North with them; but that upon getting the diamonds these men cleared out without her, not even dropping a farewell tear for the girl they left behind them. It is hardly possible that any of the stolen diamonds can ever be recovered.

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