New Orleans Daily Crescent.
MONDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1860.

ALEXANDER II
—AND—
MARY OF HESSEN-DARMSTADT,
Emperor and Empress of Russia.

EXPOSÉ OF THE GENERAL POLICY OF THE EAST.

BY SEBASTIAN SEILER,
Late Editor of the Russian Daily Gazette, New Orleans.

CHAPTER VIII.

Arrival of the Princess Mary at St. Petersburgh—She publicly renounces the Protestant religion—Proclamation of Nicholas—Mary is created Grand-duchess—The intended nuptials at Moscow prevented by an Insurrection—Discontent of the Russian peasantry—Project of serfs emancipation by Alexander I.—Celebration of the marriage at St. Petersburgh—Proclamation of Nicholas—Festivities, promotions and political amnesties—Birth of a Princess—Birth of the Grand-duke Nicholas.

According to the Russian laws, which exclude all foreign attendants from foreign princesses when becoming allied to the Imperial family, the princess Mary arrived in St. Petersburgh almost a stranger. However, an exception to the general rule was made in favor of a young lady, Augusta Schnitz, who afterwards rendered herself conspicuous during the Crimean war, by a pathetic appeal to the ladies of Finland, an example which was shortly after followed by Miss Nightingale and several other ladies in England.

Mary, being now considered by her theological teacher sufficiently advanced in the doctrines of the new religion, which she had embraced, notification was given that on the 17th of December, in the chapel of the palace of St. Petersburgh, she would publicly renounce the creed of her father, and adopt that of her future husband.

The ceremony having taken place amidst the greatest religious *éclat*, and in the presence of all the dignitaries of the Empire, the Emperor issued the following proclamation:

"We, Nicholas I, Emperor of all the Russias, etc., announce to all our beloved subjects, that our dearest son and successor, Césarewitsch Grand-duke Alexander Nicholajewitsch has, with the consent of our beloved wife, Alexandra Feodorowna, taken unto himself in marriage the princess Mary, daughter of the Grand-duke of Hesse Darmstadt and the Rhine. Having given our full approval of this union, and praying the Almighty God to bless the nuptials of our beloved son and successor; and his bride having embraced the Orthodox faith, and received the holy ointment, in the presence of several secular and divine witnesses, we proclaim that we have witnessed their betrothal in the Cathedral of our Winter Palace.

"In accordance with our grateful feelings at this auspicious event, we ordain that by every one the bride of our son shall henceforward be styled our most faithful Grand-duchess Maria Alexandrowna.

"Given at St. Petersburgh, the 18th December, in the year of our Saviour 1840, and the 16th year of our reign.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

It was the earnest wish of the Empefor that the solemnization of the marriage should take place at the earliest possible period. Preparations had already commenced at Moscow, where it was intended the ceremony should be performed with great pomp. The projects were, however, frustrated by the sudden arrival of the intelligence that this city and its vicinity were in a state of insurrection.

The cause of these *emeutes* is to be attributed to the repugnance with which the peasantry looked upon the measures that Alexander I. conceived would prove beneficial to them. He organized a series of military colonies, the principles of which abolished, after a military service, the serfdom of his subjects, and strove to introduce into Russia an entire agricultural enfranchisement. But as it frequently happened that the poor *moujeks* were transported far away from their native places to form these colonies in barren and inhospitable regions, they at first sullenly rebelled against the system, and finally broke out into open insubordination.

In consequence, the Emperor ordered the nuptials to be celebrated at St. Petersburgh. The following proclamation, issued from the Imperial Cabinet, announced the event to Europe:

"We, Nicholas, by the grace of God Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, King of Poland, etc., to all our beloved subjects send greeting.

Whereas, the marriage of our beloved son, Czarewitsch and Grand Duke Alexander Nicholajewitsch, to the Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrowna, daughter of the Grand Duke Ludwig II. of Hesse Darmstadt, was solemnized on the 28th of April of this present year, in the Cathedral of the Winter Palace, in our presence and in that of several secular and divine witnesses.

"In making known this happy event we ordain that the title of 'Cesarewna and Grand Duchess' be given to our beloved daughter-in-law, the consort of our Crown Prince.

"Not doubting that our faithful subjects will unite their prayers to the Almighty and All-merciful God, that he may be pleased to extend his fatherly care to the newly married couple who are so dear to our hearts, and that he may bless their union of mutual love with uninterrupted happiness for the continuation of their lives, to our comfort and that of our beloved consort, Alexandra Feodorowna, and of all our Imperial House; also for the advantage of our dear and faithful Russia, who in her sincere devotion will never cease to share in all our hopes and joys.

"Given at St. Petersburgh, 28th April, in the year of our Saviour 1841, and the seventeenth of our reign.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

Numerous promotions both in the military and civil service were liberally bestowed. St. Petersburgh for three days was the scene of *fêtes* and brilliant illuminations, and the populace seemed to have suddenly shaken off their usual cold and reserved demeanour. Several political amnesties were granted, and criminal offenders pardoned.

Thus the Imperial honeymoon commenced under the most favorable auspices.

On the 3d of August, 1842, their union was blessed by the birth of a daughter, who received the name of Maria Alexandra. The Emperor Nicholas, in a proclamation dated from the summer palace Tzarskojselo, 21st August, returned thanks to the Almighty for this addition to his house, and conferred upon the child the usual honorary titles. This birth seems to have been overlooked by the court chronicleers, and even the Almanac makers of Gotha, as they always allude to the eldest son, the present Czarewitsch, as the first child of Alexander the Second. It was not but in the following year, September 29th, that the present heir to the throne was born. He received the names of Nicholas Alexandrowitsch, and from the propensities he has already displayed, promises to become a worthy descendant of the Romanoffs.

CHAPTER IX.

Illness of Alexander—Remains jealous of the Mary—Attempt to Poison her—Her sleeps departure from St. Petersburgh—Return to Darmstadt—Successful intervention of the Duke De Leuchtenberg—Alexander's mother insults—The Imperial Palace at Darmstadt—Mary's reduced life—Retirement to Heiligenberg—Rome—Rome's delicious atmosphere—Mary's recovery.

Hardly had the Grand Duchess recovered from childbed see the good citizens of Darmstadt were startled by the intelligence that their new married idol had unexpectedly returned to her birthplace on the 5th of December. No credence was at first given to this statement, but its veracity was immediately proved by the appearance of her husband in the streets. Strange rumors were whispered about the town, and through the indiscretion of some courtiers, the following story came to light.

Alexander, young and handsome, and heir to the greatest Empire in Europe, was hardly to be expected, according to Court usages, to give up all his intrigues, and settle suddenly down to domestic felicity. The gem of the Imperial saloons at that time, and perhaps many statesmen in this country may remember, was the Countess B——n, equally celebrated for the unrivalled charms of her person and the subtleness of her manners, as for the prestige of her romantic career. She was the only daughter of an officer who served in the corps of Greek volunteers in the Russo-Turkish war of 1828-9, but who, as a reward for the most distinguished bravery, had been sent, after the conclusion of the peace of Adrianople, to Orenburg, a mild species of punishment, for having, at the siege of Silistria, had the misfortune to witness the Grand Duke Nicholas spoil a well-concerted attack by the imbecility of an order, against which he had ventured a word of remonstrance. Circumstances of a most important character soon furnished our vindictive Greek with an opportunity of revenging his disgrace on its Imperial author. The accession to the throne of Nicholas, preceded by the unexpected resignation of the Grand Duke Constantine, gave the signal not only to that most formidable insurrection at St. Petersburg, the history of which has been so often described, or rather mis-described, but also to a series of minor revolts in the military administration of the Empire, in which the father of the Countess took a leading part. The dramatic usurpation of Nicholas in the capital, decided, of course, the fate of all these petty rebellions, and our adventurous Greek speedily found himself dragged before a Court Martial and condemned to be shot. On the evening preceding the execution, Count B——ff, the Imperial Commissioner, was requested to give audience to a lady who, perseveringly forcing her way through the guards into the Governor's antechamber, suddenly threw herself at his feet, and fixing a pair of the most beautiful eyes, glimmering with tears, implored the Count in the most touching terms to save the life of her father. The Count, overwhelmed with astonishment, and fascinated by the regards of this incomparable beauty, bade his orderlies to leave the room. Seizing her hands and raising the fair petitioner from her prostrate attitude, he answered with a smile: "Madam, you may command my services." A conversation of about an hour ensued, the result of which was, the Count's *parole d'honneur* to avert, at the risk of his own disgrace, the judgment of the Court Martial, and to commute it into transportation to Siberia. We are ignorant at what price the daughter obtained this mercy for her father, but so satisfactorily were matters arranged that in a few hours afterwards the prisoner was ordered to be brought before the Count, who offered him not only an opportunity to take leave of his daughter, but also ordered in the most emphatic manner the Cossks, charged with conducting the culprit into exile, to take the greatest care of him. On the same day that the latter was on the way to Siberia, the daughter was journeying with the Count to one of his country residences, where Hymen soon crowned their romantical liaison.

This adventure created some sensation at St. Petersburgh; the consequence was that the Count on his return was received by the Emperor with great coolness. Forbidden to reappear at court, he would possibly have shared the fate of his unfortunate father-in-law, had not the powerful influence of his family intervened, and Nicholas contented himself to punish the enamored Boyard with five years involuntary travels through foreign countries. Accompanied by his charming wife, the Count visited Germany, Italy, France and England, until an Imperial decree permitted him to return to Russia. Readmitted into the courtcircles, shrewd eyes soon detected the ravishing qualities of the recently introduced Countess, and the lively impression which her graceful ness made from their very first presentation at court on the young mind of the Czarewitch. The Emperor, conscious of the sway which a beautiful woman would not fail to gain over the heir to the crown, and desirous to have an instrument for controlling the inclinations of his son, nourished rather than suppressed the flame in the bosom of Alexander. To avoid suspicion, the Count was ostensibly distinguished by the Emperor, and employed in several confidential missions. Shortly afterwards, Alexander had the pleasure of announcing with his own lips the pardon of the exiled father of the Countess, who, yielding to a natural impulse of gratitude, and calculating the immense advantages of her conquest, took from this moment the air of the acknowledged favorite of the Czarewitch.

So firmly did the new Star of the North establish its dominion over Alexander, that she apprehended no danger from his projected marriage with a Princess of the blood, whom court gossip already represented as a model of candour and *naïveté*, blooming as quietly as any German daisy on the rich meadows of her Rhenish fatherland. Far from being enraged at this resolution, the Countess feigned even great satisfaction, when Alexander, in obedience to the dictates of his father, set out on his bridal expedition, and betrayed not the least emotion when the Empress-mother bestowed upon her one of the most important charges in the new household.

Fully convinced of her power over the Czarewitch, and trusting in the irresistibility of her charms, she admitted not the least doubt in the continuation of her authority. Alas! how soon was she to be deceived in her calculations! From a dissimulated calmness her heart burst out with violent passion, when she saw Alexander happy by the side of his young wife in the imperial apartments. Mary looked, indeed, very young, modest and unpresumptuous; but the cunning Countess discovered beneath these angelic traits all the elements of a future mistress. Haughtiness, pride, and even contempt, would have produced less effect in the mind of the favorite, than this real feminine grace and beauty of the newly married Grand-duchess. In vain she tried several strategems. By redoubling her attentions towards Alexander, and endeavoring to perform her duties with the utmost exactitude towards her Imperial mistress, she disguised her internal fury. But at the birth of a Princess, seeing her former lover totally alienated from her, and brought closer and closer to the side of his legitimate wife, her pent-up fury could no longer contain itself.

She gave herself up to the most violent suggestions of wounded pride, female jealousy and revenge, for what she deemed her betrayal. Unfortunately for her, the scheme on which her vindictive and jealous spirit fixed its choice, became the very means of severing forever the ties which had for a certain time united her with Alexander. The exposure it produced destroyed her hopes forever. Instead of removing her rival altogether by some great crime, which seemed both dangerous and if doubtful advantages, the Countess resolved to spoil only her beauty, trusting that Alexander would restore her to his affections on perceiving that the appearance of his wife had become repulsive.

Having constant access, as lady of the bed-chamber, to the apartments of the Grand-duchess, she introduced into the washing water a corrosive if not a poisonous fluid. This infernous project so far succeeded, as the Grand duchess used the obnoxious water, whereupon her hitherto blooming face began to burn with fire and speedily became covered with eruptions. At first she was told they were the symptoms of some hidden disease; but when her physician divined the real cause, and communicated to her his suspicions, the poor Grand duchess was filled with such indignation and disgust that she resolved instantly to quit Russia. The Imperial family, on being made aware of her determination, used every possible inducement to dissuade her from her purpose, and endeavored assiduously to discover the perpetrator of this treacherous act; but the Grand-duchess, who seemed to have a lurking suspicion that her husband was in some way connected with the plot, remained firm and insisted on returning to her father's roof. To the mortification of Nicholas and his family she left St. Petersburg within a few days, and Alexander, in order to prevent public commentaries as to the cause of their abrupt departure, accompanied his wife.

Returning to Darmstadt, Mary preserved a strict seclusion. Her father, fearful of drawing down the wrath of the Colossus of the North, by apparently countenancing the animosity of his daughter against her husband, succeeded by his paternal influence in appeasing her injured feelings.

Alexander remained only a short time at Darmstadt, but before his departure obtained a reconciliation with his wife. He traveled through Holland, Wurtemberg and Bavaria, where he prevailed on the Duke of Leuchtenberg to go and visit the Grand-duchess.

By dint of great perseverance and application, her physicians succeeded in removing the most material effects of the poison she had imbibed; but the scars which remained seriously disfigured her countenance, and are not effaced to this day.

On the 10th of March another sinister incident troubled her convalescence: a fire broke out close to her bed-chamber in the palace, and compelled poor Mary to seek refuge in the lonely Castle of Heiligenberg, at a short distance from Darmstadt.

Here her rural existence more resembled that of a nun than of the future Empress of all the Russias. Disliking the curiosity which her presence in public would cause, she preferred passing her time in the society of a few faithful friends, who were only too delighted in rendering any service to their beloved Princess.

Alexander, more and more anxious to destroy even the slightest vestige of unhappiness from the memory of his young wife, hurried unexpectedly towards her residence, and during the evening of the 21st of March he approached himself, by footpaths, and unattended, the Chateau Heiligenberg. Like Ruggiero, he scaled the walls of the gardens and entered unperceived into the palace. Having ascertained that the Grand-duchess had retired to her apartments, he presented himself suddenly inwards her. Her surprise was as great as her joy at this unexpected visit, and Alexander had the gratification of testing his ability of imitating his father in supposed ubiquity.

To all appearances entirely reconciliated, they left Darmstadt for St. Petersburg, on the 18th of April, where they arrived, accompanied by the Duke of Leuchtenberg, on the 30th.

The most perfect harmony was completely restored in the Imperial circle, and the Emperor went to his father-in-law in Berlin during the following month.

From this period Alexander took a greater interest in the politics of the Empire.

[*To be Continued.*]

LETTER FROM CRESCENTA.

PINE COUNTY, MISS., July 24, 1860.

Ed. Crescent—Since writing my last we have had very sultry, dry weather, and the crops are in need of rain, though being so far advanced they do not suffer as they did in the earlier part of the season. Fruit is now getting pretty plentiful, such as peaches, pears and melons, while we still have that truly native American luxury, roasting ears, in their fall milky perfection. Did you ever take a full grained ear, plump with the rich milky pulp, and roast it? If not, you have never yet tasted a roasting ear, nor can you form any conception of its deliciousness. Try it, and see if I'm not right.

In glancing over the Grand Trunk Magnolian, a paper published in Magnolia, I noticed the marriage of a couple, the groom aged seventeen, the bride fourteen. Early beginners in the cares and toils of life, don't you think? Well, may they live to celebrate their "silver wedding" and count their "bairns' bairns." Yet, if my advice had been asked, I should have said wait a little longer, and be children awhile before you become old folks. These premature marriages are one great cause of the early decay of beauty and health in American women, many being wives and mothers at an age when they should still be in the school room.

An affray that occurred in Summit yesterday resulted in the serious wounding of a Mr. Phelps, of the firm of Phelps & Co., of that place, and formerly a resident of our city. He was stabbed severely, the party who wounded him escaping. It is feared the wound will prove fatal. He is a man of family, and much esteemed by the community, I understand. And such is life; to-day merry as a marriage bell—to-morrow, solemn as the funeral knell.

I am in anticipation of a merry round of visits next week, and expect much pleasure, may I not be disappointed. I generally strive not to set my heart very deeply upon anything, thereby escaping serious disappointment, should I not obtain the wished for enjoyment. "Sensible to the last," in some things, methinks I hear you say. I fear me you will be disappointed if you expect, when opening this scrawl, anything of interest in it, for I cannot create incidents, not being gifted with much ingenuity in that line—plenty of the *ingen* but not much of the *ality*, ch! I can only wish that you may find ample room to expand, and that your shadow ever may never grow less.

Your friend, CRESCENTA.

The steamer W. H. Webb, Capt. Leach, sailed from her wharf yesterday morning at 8 o'clock, for New York, with the following passengers: Mrs. Leach and child, D. P. Maccey, J. McGill, J. V. Hickey, and Mrs. Shepard.

A GOOD STORY SPOILED.—A cynical individual, on reading a pathetic story in one of the papers lately, noted it in his memorandum book as follows:

Somebody whistled. Teacher calls up big boy on suspicion.

Big boy comes up and holds out his hand, sullen and savage.

Noble little boy comes manfully forward, and says, "I'm the boy what whistled, sir," at the same time extending his hand.

Teacher simmers down, and lets 'em both off.

(Mem.—Noble little boy thought teacher would'nt lick him if he told the truth, but knew big boy would lick him if he did'nt.)

CROPS AND DROUTH IN ALABAMA.—Every day brings the most distressing accounts of the calamitous effects of the drouth and scorching weather upon the crops. A letter dated at Marion, Alabama, of the 23d inst. says:

We have no rains yet. Crops are almost entirely ruined. Corn has gone by the board in many portions of our county. There are thousands of acres around here that will not yield five bushels to the acre.

The Tuscaloosa Monitor of the 21st says:

We hear complaints from every section of the country with respect to the damage done to the crops, from the unprecedented dry and warm weather we have been afflicted with for more than a month. The corn crop will prove almost a total failure, and the promising cotton crop materially shortened. Until within the last few days the thermometer has ranged from 98 to 104 in the shade—owing in some two or three light showers, and a heavy rain on Thursday, in the western part of the county, near the turnpike, the heat has somewhat abated and is endurable.

DESPERATE AFFRAY IN CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI. We learn from St. Joseph papers that a terrible affray took place in Clay county, near Smithville, on the 20th, between Dr. Jordan and five others. This affair grew out of a trial for rape in that county, and the persons killed had sworn vengeance on the Doctor for the evidence he had given on the trial. On Friday business called the Doctor to Smithville, and while sitting in a store, conversing with some friends, the other party, five in number, entered with guns, and told him they came to take his life. The Doctor immediately drew a pistol and commenced firing, killing two of his assailants and wounding the other three. The Doctor was not arrested, although he offered to give himself up to an officer. The community in which the affair occurred, justified the Doctor in his course, on the grounds that he acted in self-defense.

"I shall be indebted to you for life," an Absquatulator said to his creditors, when he bolted to Australia.

LOUISIANA IN SLICES.

NUMBER XIX.

The Parish of Bossier.

Bellevue—The Bossier Banner—Fillmore—Benton—Collinsburg—Rocky Mount—Plainville—Colton Valley—The Way the Planters' Hotel in Bellevue is Kept—Some Reflections—The Parish and its Lands—Its Planters—Parish Officers—Crops, Weather—Price of Corn, etc.

[From our Special Traveling Correspondent.
BELLEVUE, BOSSIER PARISH, July 14, 1860.

Ed. Crescent—I write from the Parish seat of Bossier, the city of Bellevue, a "scrougin'" little corporation of about a hundred and fifteen or sixteen inhabitants, Mayor, one store, two bar-rooms and a church, which, however, they don't "run regularly." The Court-House is a fine building, however, and it is rumored that its being there is about all that retains Bellevue as the seat of the parish, its location not being a very convenient one. Here is the parish jail, too, with the doors of all its cells standing hospitably open to receive a resident, and strong as the penitentiary. Jack Sheppard, himself, might bid hope farewell on entering the Black hole of Bossier. The church was built by the Methodists, but is occasionally used by the Baptists. The landing place of Bellevue is Murrell's Point, thirteen miles distant, on Lake Bisteneau, which is navigable for from three to six months of the year, though in 1855 it inconveniently happened that it was not navigable to that point at any time. At Bellevue is published the Bossier Banner, the only paper in the parish, and which, after many of the ups and downs which are not uncommonly incident to newspaper existence, finally fell into the hands of its present proprietor, and became a permanent institution. Mr. Wm. H. Scanland is editor and proprietor of the Banner, and, we suspect, about the youngest of the whole fraternity, being not yet twenty years of age. He has had the paper over a year, and his cotemporaries up in these parts who have got fond of him have had no reason to come to the conclusion that his youth was at all in the way of his taking care of himself, with pen or other weapon, he being one of Young America's "representative men" in all respects.

Bellevue is twenty-three miles from Shreveport by the stage road. On the road, and eight miles South of Bellevue, is Fillmore post-office, where there are Methodist and Baptist churches, a spacious store kept by W. E. Hamilton, and three or four residences. Bossier Point office is eighteen miles south of Bellevue, and there is a Methodist church there, but no store. At Benton, sixteen miles west of Bellevue, K. P. D. Taylor & Co. keep store, but the settlement is very small. Collinsburg is twenty-three miles northwest of Bellevue. The Methodists have a church there, and G. W. Sentelle & Brothers have a store there. At Rocky Mount, fifteen miles northwest of Bellevue, a considerable business is done by Messrs. Stewman & Hughes, and Crawford, Hughes & Co., and there is a Methodist church. Plainville is twenty-five miles west of Bellevue, and there J. J. Swindle is engaged in mercantile pursuits, and both Methodists and Baptists have meeting-houses. The landing places of Collinsburg, Rocky Mount and Plainville are at Hurricane and Carolina Bluffs. Colton Valley office is fifteen miles northeast of Bellevue. There Messrs. Hamilton & Edwards are the merchants, and the Baptist and Methodist denominations have churches. At Orchard Grove office, twenty-five miles northeast of Bellevue, there is no store and no "settlement." Those who visit the capital of Bossier should come prepared to "camp out," for while this correspondent was partaking of his bacon and bread in the *salle à manger* of the "hotel," he had to keep his feet in continual motion to defend himself against the pigs under the dining table. These cleanly and agreeable household pets run round the house more sociably than cats and dogs, and, conjointly with the bipeds, make a rush for the victualing apartment whenever the bell announces meal time. The fare at the hotel is bacon and bread for breakfast, bread and bacon for dinner, and some bacon and bread for supper. We have bacon on the table and bacon under the table—the latter very much alive and uncured, the former very salt and rusty. It is a great pity that the rural Anglo-American of Louisiana does not understand the mere rudiments of the science of living. In this climate and with this soil he might live in luxury. At few country stopping places do I find milk, eggs, butter, fresh meat or vegetables. Occasionally one of the above articles may be had, seldom more than one at the same place, and ordinarily not any of them. The Creole population, in their part of the State, invariably live well. Our Americans, generally, had rather raise fifty dollars' worth of cotton than five hundred dollars' worth of anything else.

Bossier parish is extensive, and contains a great deal of fine cotton and corn lands. Its territorial area comprises over two hundred and sixty thousand acres of land, and it has forty-odd thousand acres in cotton, and over twenty-five thousand in corn—sufficient, if the season was favorable, to yield twenty-three or four thousand bales of cotton, and some five hundred thousand bushels of corn. The parish borders on Arkansas, is bounded on the west by Red river, and on the east by Dauchite river and Lake Bisteneau. It is a long and narrow parish, hedge-shaped, and its river and lake boundaries, and Bodeau river and lake and tributaries in its interior, secure to it a large extent of rich bottom lands, which are worth from ten to seventy-five dollars, improved and unimproved, per acre. The uplands, some of which make very good crops, but nothing like what the bottoms do, may be quoted at from five to ten dollars per acre. There is a good deal of land in the upper part of the parish on which the surveyors are yet at work, closely watched by speculators and others who have "spotted" the best tracts, and are in waiting to secure them as soon as brought into market.

The following are the names of the larger planters of the parish, ranking from two hundred bales up to almost a steamboat load: Col. J. M. Sandidge, John Pickett, Jas. Pickett, Mrs. P. Pickett, John Alger, Mrs. Mary Jane Button, Mrs. Macartney, Dr. J. W. Vance, Dr. S. W. Vance, R. Y. Graves, Miss Mattie Gilmer, George E. Gilmer, Thomas Gilmer, Col. Marshal, Mrs. M. D. C. Kane, R. C. Cummings, E. C. Hart, Reuben White, Maples & Ivens, M. Lattier, George Williamson, W. M. Pickett, J. L. Hodges, E. C. Adkins, Edmund W. Hodges, J. J. Bryan, David Platt, W. H. Ellison, James H. Hughes, John Hamilter Dr. H. McFarland, D. L. Hooks, Col. Gatlin, Gen. P. A. Morse, estate J. B. Suggs, W. M. Barns, Dr. S. Kimball, John Chaffe, Frank Smith, J. N. Bryan, Mrs. H. N. Heaghton, and others. There are many small planters on the uplands in this parish, working little more force than their own two hands, strong and willing, who make in the aggregate a good deal of cotton. Bossier is the most broken and uneven country I have yet visited in Louisiana, and some of the highlands look barren enough, but in the bottoms may be found bodies of lands of unsurpassed fertility. The river bottoms are the best, the lake bottoms far inferior, which accounts for the wide range of prices given above.

The total population of Bossier is between eleven and twelve thousand, over seven thousand of whom are slaves, and it pays a State tax of twenty thousand dollars. It is assessed for over six millions of dollars in round numbers. The parish officers at this time are: A. A. Abney, Clerk; Philor Alden, Sheriff; John M. Doyle, Assessor; Austin Miller, Recorder; James Ford, President Police Jury.

CROPS, WEATHER, ETC.

The scorching drought still continues through this section of country. The corn crop is almost a total failure. Many planters have stripped the corn leaves for fodder, and others who could not get even fodder have turned their stock into the corn fields. Acres of wilted and withered corn may be seen, on which the ears did not even form, or with perhaps one "nubbin" to a hundred hills. Three dollars and upwards per bushel, and hardly any to be had at that, is the price of corn at different trading points through this country, and at some places I am told, it cannot be bought at any price unless it is satisfactorily shown that it is to be used for bread, and not to be fed to stock.

Cotton is being badly injured. Many of the upland planters "won't make cotton to the acre." The very best of weather from now to harvest time will scarce avail to secure a moderate crop. The weather is unprecedentedly hot and dry.

My next letter will be from Homer, forty miles distant, the parish seat of Claiborne, which, with Bienville parish, adjoins Bossier on the east.

TOURIST.

TELEGRAPHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

[BY THE AMERICAN AND NATIONAL LINES.]

CAPE RACE, July 28.—The steamship City of Washington, of the New York, Philadelphia and Liverpool line, from Liverpool via Queenstown, passed off this point last night.

She left Liverpool Wednesday, July 18th, touched at Queenstown Thursday evening, the 19th, and brings four days later intelligence than was received by the Canada at Halifax.

The City of Washington was boarded by the news yacht of the Associated Press. The can containing the news was not thrown overboard, but two papers were obtained, from which the following news was taken:

The British Government has been informed that another fearful massacre of Christians had taken place at Damascus.

Five hundred Christians, including the Dutch Consul, had been murdered in cold blood by the Turks. The American Minister was seriously wounded.

The affairs in the Southern portion of Italy are becoming more serious. Patriots gather in large numbers, and constantly traverse the streets of Naples.

The moderate party are greatly excited in consequence of the stabbing of the Inspector of the former police.

A conflict occurred between the Royal troops and the people, in consequence of popular manifestations in favor of some place of refuge. Several were killed on both sides.

The Neapolitan Ministry has been dismissed, and Frances II has formed a new Cabinet.

The two vessels which went to Garibaldi were merchant steamers. The steamer Veloca has also gone to him.

A proclamation of Gen. Garibaldi has been distributed in which he says: "I am a Royalist, but prefer King Victor Emanuel, who will lead us against Austria."

CAPE RACE, July 28.—The British squadron, conveying the Princeof Wales and his suite, has left St. Johns and passed this point, having been detained by fog.

FURTHER BY THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

LIVERPOOL, July 18.—The sales on Monday and Tuesday, in the Liverpool Cotton Market, amounted to 25,000 bales.

The markets closed steady at the quotations by the last steamer. The trade is generally healthy. The export demand is good, while the speculative demand is dormant.

The sales yesterday added up 10,000 bales, of which speculators and exporters took 4000, leaving 6000 to the trade.

The Cotton market yesterday wore the same steady aspect which has characterized it for a few days past.

LONDON, July 18.—There has been fair business done in money since the sailing of the Canada, and the market closed active. Funds closed steady at an advance of ¼. Consols for money closed at 93½ to 93¾.

PARIS, July 18.—The Paris Bourse rules dull and closed flat.

The three per cent. Rentes closed at 68f. 90c.

HAVRE, July 18.—The sales of Cotton on Monday and Tuesday embraced 1500 bales. The market closed generally dull but quiet at Friday's quotations.

In the British House of Commons the proceedings were of no importance.

Private orders regarding the Sicilian affairs had been given by the French, who say as little as possible about Garibaldi.

It is thought that the Turkish Government connived with the Druses in the late massacre of Christians at Damascus and other portions of Syria.

The ship James Nesbitt, from New Orleans, arrived out at Liverpool on the 6th inst.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Great Excitement in Virginia.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., July 28.—This State has been thrown into a perfect State of excitement on account of news received from the town of Decoquan, in regard to a Black Republican movement.

It appears that a number of Black Republicans entered the town of Decoquan, having in hand the Lincoln and Hamlin banner, and shouting at a high rate.

The people were driven to madness by this movement, and steps were immediately taken to free the town of these men. Letcher, upon hearing this intelligence, ordered the troops out to quell any disturbance which might occur, and protect the Republicans.

This order of Gov. Letcher caused Gen. Hatten to resign the command of the troops.

Further troubles are anticipated.

Arrival of Excursionists at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, July 2.—A party of seventy excursionists arrived in the city yesterday morning from Canada.

The party is composed of members of Parliament, officials, agriculturalists and members of the press.

After having spent the greatest portion of the day in taking a view of the city, the party left for Iowa towards night.

The Indian War.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Mr. Matthew Salfor has been appointed Agent for the Washitoes and other tribes of Indians located on the Cheoter lands.

Lieut. Kansord, with a detachment of U. S. troops, has been ordered to the new military post at Big Timbers, on the Arkansas river, for the protection of Government and emigrant trains.

Tennessee Democratic Electoral Ticket.

NASHVILLE, TENN., July 28.—A Douglas State Convention assembled in this city today, and nominated a full electoral ticket.

Messrs. W. H. Polk and H. M. Watterson are the electors at large.

The Lincolnite Movement in Virginia.

GRAHAM, Va., July 28.—Governor Letcher compelled Gen. Hatten to order out a company for the preservation of public peace. It is believed that Hatten sympathizes with the mob, and doubts exist whether the troops will fire on the mob of Black Republicans. Some officers of the Alexandria militia have left Washington, expecting they would be ordered to this place.

Sailing of the Steamship City of Baltimore.

NEW YORK, July 28.—The New York, Liverpool and Philadelphia mail company's screw steamship City of Baltimore left her dock at noon to-day for Liverpool via Queenstown.

The City of Baltimore took out the New Orleans mails for Europe of the 27th inst., and the telegraphic dispatches from the same point, of yesterday, the 27th inst. She took out $1,070,000 in specie, on freight.

Marine Disaster.

BOSTON, July 28.—The ship Natoli, from this port, bound for New Orleans, was wrecked on the 16th in Caribou passage. The cargo between decks was saved by the crew at Turks Island.

THE GREAT METEOR.—An Albany correspondent of the N. Y. Herald writes learnedly concerning the recent great meteor, and says:

In case we admit the meteor to have passed, as it probably did, about sixty miles south of Albany, its elevation must have been about twenty-seven miles; and in case it was set on fire by entering the earth's atmosphere, at such an elevation, it would have passed through about 170 miles of atmosphere, and, as I estimate, with a velocity of twenty-ten miles in one second of time. Should any person have seen it in the south, the locality where it was thus seen will enable any one to compute roughly the elevation above the earth.

The other day a small boy came tearing round a corner with his rags fluttering in the wind, his face smeared with molasses, and a shingle flourishing in his hand while he was shouting to another boy about the size of a pepper-box, who stood nearly a quarter of a mile down the street, "O Bill, Bill, Bill! get as many boys as ever you can, and as many shingles as ever you can, and come up the street round the corner as fast as ever you can, for there's a big, large bonfit of lasses busted on the pavement—busted all to smash!"

Local Intelligence.

HEALTH AND WEATHER.—We are glad to be able still to announce that the health of the city continues excellent. The weather, though warm still, was more pleasant yesterday, and we were refreshed about mid-day by a delightful shower, followed by a cool breeze which continued all the evening. We think that we are safe in saying that the worst of the warm weather is over, and that the balance of the season will be pleasant.

SUDDEN DEATH.—A sudden death took place on Friday night at the Orleans Hotel, on Chartres street. A Mr. R. Eisenhardt, a resident of St. Louis, who arrived here on the 15th instant, retired to bed as well as usual on Friday night, but the servant who entered his room early on Saturday morning found him a corpse. After holding an inquest, the Coroner returned a verdict of death from apoplexy. Mr. E. was a native of Germany, aged about 45 years, and leaves a large family in St. Louis.

ANOTHER HUMAN SKELETON FOUND.—On Saturday afternoon, while Mr. Octave Andry was riding along the levee in front of the plantation of Messrs. Bouligny and Gannelean, he discovered a human skull lying in the mud near the edge of the water. On reaching the city he informed the Coroner of this fact, telling him that he thought it possible that the rest of the skeleton would be found upon the examination of the vicinity. The Coroner accordingly proceeded to the spot indicated yesterday morning, found the skull, and, on searching down the river bank for a hundred or two yards, the balance of the skeleton. The flesh had been entirely stripped from the bones by dogs or hogs, and they were scattered about in the mud for some distance along the water's edge. Some clothing was also found, which, from the coarseness of the material, led the Coroner to believe that the unfortunate man was a deck-hand or levee laborer. Nothing was found which could add a clue as to the identity of the man; but the Coroner was informed that the negroes of the plantation had informed the overseer that a body was there some ten days ago, to which he replied that it was none of his business if there was, and so left it to be devoured as mentioned above. An inquest was held upon the skeleton, and a verdict rendered in accordance with the facts.

A SHOOTING CASE.—On Saturday afternoon about 4 o'clock, a shooting affair occurred on board the low-boat St. Charles, now lying on the other side of the river, below the Opelousas Railroad depot, in which a watchman of the low-boat Defiance, named Michael Henly, was killed by Capt. Henry Heidman, of the St. Charles. It appears from the information we have received, that Henly went on board the St. Charles armed with a knife, and threatened to kill Capt. Heidman, who told him that he had better go about his business, and left him. Henly, however, still followed the captain, who went into the cabin to get out of his way, but at last finding himself in danger, drew his pistol and shot twice, each time wounding Henly in the breast. The unfortunate man expired almost immediately. The Coroner was sent for, and after holding an inquest over the body, returned a verdict in accordance with the facts of the case, and made an affidavit of manslaughter against Capt. Heidman, before Judge Fortier, who admitted the accused to bail in the sum of $1000.

STORE ENTERED.—Some burglars entered the feed store of Mr. D. Blois, No. 9 Front Levee, between Ursulines and Hospital, at half past 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, and attempted to blow open the iron safe. The noise made by the explosion of the powder frightened them off, for on the arrival of the watchman immediately afterwards, he found the store filled with smoke and the fumes of gunpowder, but no rogues. They no doubt effected an entrance into the store by the aid of a large chisel, which was found near the door.

COMMITTED FOR MURDER.—Recorder Emerson on Saturday concluded the examination of Dennis Sullivan, charged with killing Barney Connelly on the 4th ult. After patiently hearing the evidence which was very voluminous, the Recorder fully committed Sullivan for trial before the First District Court for murder.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.—The police of the First District on Friday night were astonished to find some forty men all sleeping in company on the levee, near the steamboat landing. Supposing them to be vagrants, the officers making the discovery duly locked them up in the calaboose. But it appears they were not vagrants, but travelers on their way to Texas, who had come down the river on a steamboat and intended to take the 5 o'clock cars in the morning. The night being warm and their quarters close on board the steamboat was the reason of their taking to the levee. On these facts being made known to Recorder Emerson, he kindly released and sent them on their way rejoicing, in time to take the train they originally intended. We presume that whenever they undertake to camp out again they will set a watch.

VIOLENT THREATS.—Mr. James M. French, it seems, has been addressing some very plain English to Dr. James Elliott, in the way of threats of personal violence, which the doctor fearing would be put into practice, has made affidavit of before the Justice of the Peace of the Lower Coroner's ward, before whom the case was brought, required Mr. French to give bonds in the sum of $250, that he had no intention of proceeding any further with the doctor.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Mr. Heinz Reinsicz, a German, who resides in the Third District, fell into the river, from the wharf between Hancock and Monroe streets, on Thursday last, and was drowned. His body has not yet been recovered.

FOUND DROWNED.—On Saturday the body of an unknown man was found in the river opposite Canal street. He was apparently 40 years old, stout built and had red hair and beard; was dressed in a blue gingham shirt and blue cottonade pants; had no shoes on. He was evidently an Irish laborer. The Coroner held an inquest and returned a verdict in accordance with the facts.

A BAD CHARACTER.—There is nothing in this world so disagreeable to a man as a bad character. It gives an unfortunate turn to every action of his life, even the most trivial. For instance: Mr. Michael Stewart is so unfortunate as to have a bad character; and it may have been, as he says, innocently acquired. But