New Orleans Daily Crescent.

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1861.

Convention of the State of Louisiana.

Pursuant to adjournment, the State Convention met on yesterday, March 4th, 1861, at 12 o'clock M.; President Moutou in the chair, and sixty-nine members answering to the call of the roll.

On motion of Mr. Hough, Mr. Davidson of Saline was granted leave of absence for a few days.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Convention were read and approved.

An interesting and elaborate report from the Superintendent of the New Custom-House was read. The report embraced valuable details in regard to the progress of the work upon the building, and gives full information in regard to the present condition of the monetary resources and liabilities of the Custom-House.

On motion, the report was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Elgee offered a resolution instructing the delegates of Louisiana, in the Congress at Montgomery, to resist all attempts to interfere regarding the public domain of the State; and, on his motion, the resolution was referred.

Judge Walker, of Orleans, offered the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to report to this Convention an ordinance providing for the transfer to the Government of the Confederate States of America all the troops which have been raised under the ordinance of this Convention, entitled "An Ordinance for the establishment of a regular military force for the State of Louisiana," together with all the munitions, arms and other property in the possession of, and that may have been contracted for, the Board of Military Commissioners of the State, in conformity to the provisions and conditions of the act of Congress of the Confederate States.

On motion, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to report an ordinance providing for the purchase of an amount of the bonds of the Confederate States of America equal to the unexpended balance of the sums appropriated under the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance for the establishment of a military force for the State of Louisiana," adopted 5th February, 1861, and for the investment of such further sums from the revenues of the State as may be deemed expedient, in the same securities.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce, Navigation and Revenue, be instructed to provide out of the funds now deposited in the Mint of this city for the payment of such drafts for the postal service of this State as may be justly due for such service, also for drafts on account of pensions due in this city, and for such other claims as in the judgment of said Committee may be deemed proper to be paid out of such funds.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Gen. Miles offered a resolution that this Convention unite to-morrow with the citizens of New Orleans in receiving with proper honor our distinguished fellow-citizen, General Twiggs.

Mr. Cottman, of Ascension, moved to lay the resolution on the table.

The yeas and nays being called for, resulted: 5 yeas, 76 nays.

On motion of Gen. Miles, the rules were suspended in order to take up the resolution, and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Manning, of Rapides, offered a resolution that General Twiggs be invited to take a seat within the bar of the Convention during its sittings, and the resolution was adopted.

A resolution tendering the thanks of the Convention to the city authorities for polite attentions was offered and laid over under the rules.

Mr. Lewis, of Claiborne, offered a resolution approbatory of the action of the Southern Congress at Montgomery regarding the reopening of the African Slave Trade. Laid over under the rules.

A communication from the President of the N. O., J. and G. N. Railroad Company was read. On motion, it was referred to the Committee on Finance. The communication refers to the nonpayment of a draft for about $10,000 drawn upon the Assistant Treasurer here, to meet the claims of the company for postal services.

On motion, the Convention adjourned.

Hotel Arrivals Yesterday.

CITY HOTEL.—C H Bostick and wife, Ala; Jos E Wilson, Tex; Jno D Dallese, La; R Womack, Ark; D R Milton, La; G G Kibbe, Texas; Robt Adams, Ala; D F Wildess, Ark; C M Gilbert, Miss; G Griggs and lady, Ala; W L Graves, J H Walker, Ark; J R Kennedy, Tex; W L Potts, La; J Johnson, Miss; W Murdock, F Wood, La; C W Waddill, Ark; F P Vance, Miss; Thos E Stratton, Tenn; J Gibson, Miss.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL.—J H Kennard, Miss Kate Kennard, Miss V Kennard, Md; N M Holmes, H Shields, Ark; W F Smith, R H Carter, A B Carter, Miss; W C Dickinson, La Army; W K Hough, E C Kidd, L Texada, A C Brown, J Marks, B F Marks, A. J. Marks, R B Todd and lady, G W Bringham, La; W Carr, Misses M S Nisbet, E Powell, L Mathews, Mary Mathews, Mr W H Mathews, St. Louis; Mrs Julia Roan, W H Murdock, B F Wood, G C Cantrell, col W C Lollia; S D Jones, H A Jones and lady, J M Howell, S C; W T Campbell, Va; E Neubrik, R Webb, Mobile; A J Moses, W T Agus, Mrs Lee, Rev N R Morgan, Ala; A C Smart, Sabine; A P Fisk, N Y; T L Hamilton, A L Steele, Geo Gresham, Texas; Miss C Webb, Ala; J R Bell, Ky; Chas Street, N Y.

ST. LOUIS HOTEL.—F W Gatewood, J S Miller, S Wolf, H Wright, W Hatch and lady, A Morton, A P Oliver, S W Dorsey, L P Conner, J J Shafer, A M Gaudet, L D Nicholls, J A Blanchard, La; W R Young, Miss; J Davis, Coast; Miss Ella Holbrook, Coast; T Johnson, Jefferson; J Saulsbury and lady, W A Barnes, Ala; F A Warren, Miss B Hagood, Ark; J S Smith, Ala; Jno Arrington, N C; Wm T Bartley, Jr., Ky; W A Browning, E Holmes, Ga; G C Gray, Texas; T A Elgin, Texas.

ST. JAMES HOTEL.—A D Wetherspoon and son, Tenn; J Postwent, Jas Meadthur, D W Burick, G Alexx, J B Deason, Miss; B W Pearce, J Lean, G S Walmsley, Lex; F Pierce, S Owens, J P Smith, P Hall, Sam Rybee, P Serbis, Miss; J J Williams, J C Landey, Jas Tayler, W T Harris, W E Wright, D B Martin, Tex; H Richardson, La; Wm Harrell, Georgia.

☞Dr. Charles E. Kells, Dentist, No. 158 Canal street, between Carondelet and Royaune, New Orleans.

Louisiana Intelligence.

The Baton Rouge Advocate of Saturday last has the following:

We are assured on good authority that a gang of runaway negroes, about fourteen in number, are depredating almost with impunity on the property of citizens living on the eastern side of the Comite river in this parish. They have been frequently seen in squads, some of them armed with shot guns, and in one instance a gun was put to the head of a white man by one of four negroes who emerged from the bushes just as the former was in the act of securing one of their comrades.

Two white men are with these negroes, both armed with double-barreled guns, and doubtless are the instigators of their thieving and insolence. An expedition is on foot to capture the whole party.

The Iberville Sentinel of Saturday last says:

Within the last week the sward has again become green, fruit trees have become fully in bloom, fresh leaves are sprouting from the evergreens, the birds sing more merrily, and all nature generally has assumed a more smiling and a more cheerful aspect. May the cruel frost not come to throw a pall over nature's loveliest scene.

The Baton Rouge Advocate of Saturday last has the following:

On Thursday night week the house of Squire James, in Livingston parish, was broken into by two men, supposed to be a man named Washington and his stepson, in search of plunder. On knocking at the door Mr. James went to open it, and was immediately fired upon, the ball taking effect in the head and knocking Mr. James down, but not wounding him so severely as to prevent his getting out of the house and concealing himself. Mrs. James rushed to the door on hearing the shot, and attempted to keep the murderers out, but she received a ball in the left side of the chest which passed through her body, and left her senseless on the floor. The villains then entered the house, and after bruising her head horribly with a hatchet left her for dead. A little negro boy was lying on the floor on a blanket, and being awakened and alarmed by the noise, began screaming for help, when he was assaulted with the hatchet and most horribly mangled, having his head nearly split open.

Having accomplished this, the murderers took Mr. James' trunks, carried them about a hundred yards from the house and broke them open. They were deceived in their wishes, as the trunks contained only the family clothing.

The affair has created great excitement in the parish, and besides the man Washington and his step-son, two others have been arrested on suspicion and lodged in jail. Strange to relate, none of the wounded parties are yet dead.

NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

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VOLUME XIV. TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1861. NUMBER 1.

THE FIREMEN'S CELEBRATION.

THE WEATHER CLEARS UP BEAUTIFULLY.

A Great and Brilliant Turnout.

THE STREETS GORGED WITH PEOPLE.

THE NEW HAND AND STEAM ENGINES.

THE MOBILE FIREMEN'S DISPLAY.

Presentations of Flags, Wreaths, etc., etc.

Yesterday came along rainy and dismal, and dampened the feelings of the town as well as its streets; for the greatest preparations had been made by the Firemen for the celebration of their twenty-fourth anniversary, and by the public at large for a turnout to see the grand sight of the day. The hours rolled sluggishly by; and the sprinkles and showers of rain were so frequent and well kept up, that even the Firemen began to fear a distressing failure, and the subject of a postponement came into general discussion as a "consummation devoutly to be wished." This matter was so seriously thought of, that the officers of the Department decided upon postponing the celebration should the weather not promise for the better by 11 o'clock.

Luckily, at the hour of 11 the rain held up; and after a few parting drizzles the clouds began to break up; at 12 there were glimmers of sunshine; and at half-past 12 the clouds were flying six ways for Sunday, and the sun shining forth in full glory. We never saw the town change its appearance so quickly. The few doubtful fire companies and the rain-defying crowds who had assembled on Canal street, and fancied for a time that they only would be there, were in an hour's time lost sight of amid the thousands of people that assembled from all quarters, and the rapidly assembling fire companies.

The long galleries of Touro Row and the numerous other galleries and balconies of the "grand boulevard" flushed up as if by magic, with the gala-day gorge of feminine beauty; and at noon, (about the time the procession started) Canal street was as crowded, beautiful, and glorious to behold, as upon any similar occasion previously. The streets included in the line of march were almost as greatly crowded, at the same time. In short, neither the firemen nor the town were in the least cheated out of the luxury of beholding each other, and the pleasure was all the greater that the wet morning had threatened to break up the whole arrangement.

The fire companies never turned out in brighter guise than on this occasion. There were numerous new features observable; among which we may mention the new hand engines, the first holiday display of the steam engines, and the extraordinary beauty and taste of some of the decorations. Business was visibly suspended in many parts of the city, and the flags fluttered in the breeze everywhere. Without further generalizing, we shall proceed with a detail of the fire companies out, and of their appearance in

The Procession.

The procession was headed by Mr. I. N. Marks, President of the Firemen's Charitable Association and Grand Marshal of the day, with the other officers of the Association, all wearing heavy blue scarfs, and on horseback. We may as well, in this connection, give the the list of the Grand Marshal's aids, each of whom accompanied his particular company in the line:

Geo. Schindler, of	No. 1	Benj. Faith, of	No. 21
E. Talmage, of	No. 2	John Gerlach, of	No. 22
John Wasson, of	No. 3	John Dwan, of	No. 23
S. Scanlan, of	No. 4	M. C. Delaunay, of	No. 24
M. A. Rogers, of	No. 5	J. Reed, H. A. L. Co. No. 1	
Daniel Mullen, of	No. 6	Louis Roy, H. & L. Co. No. 2	
J. M. Vandegrift, of	No. 11	Geo. Pearce, H. & L. Co. No. 3	
A. Jackson, of	No. 12	W. A. Fletcher, Jr., Co. No. 4	
Chas. Weaver, of	No. 13	W. Seymour, Lafayette Hook	
John O'Connor, of	No. 20	John Gorner, of	Washington
A. J. Rickard, of	No. 19	Neptune, of No. 12, Special	
J. A. Bates, of	No. 18	Aid for Washington Engine	
Wm. Henry, of	No. 17	Company No. 3, of Mobile.	
Washington Marks, of	No. 28		

After the Grand Marshal and his companions came the Chief Engineer and his nine Assistants, as follows, all in a handsome firemen's uniform, and walking five abreast:

David Bradhurst	Chief Engineer.
George Lehkeisen	Assistant Engineer for Fire District.
Charles A. Smith	do do
Edward Flood	do do
Joseph Murphy	do do
Louis Bakewell	do do
F. Albert	do do
J. Dufour	do do
E. Rue	do do
Joseph Jacobs	do do

And then the fire companies, in the order following, to wit:

Volunteer Steam Engine Co. No. 1.

The engine "Extinguisher" was highly polished, having beyond this no other decoration than a little golden image of a fireman on the air-chamber, flecked with ribbons. Drawn by the members, with horses at the head of the rope, and the old exempt horse at the post of honor. Members in red and black.

Home Hook and Ladder No. 1,

Of Jefferson City; members in blue and black; truck and ladders decorated simply with bunches of arbor-vitæ, a hoquet, and a little State flag.

Pioneer Engine No. 1,

Of Jefferson City; members in red and black; the engine beautifully decorated with flowers. The two companies from Jefferson made an excellent appearance.

Washington Hook and Ladder No. 1,

Of Algiers; members in blue and black; truck prettily ornamented with flowers and streamers of silk.

Pelican Engine No. 1,

Of Algiers; members in red and black; engine handsomely bedecked with flowers, and having on top a live white pelican, delicately caged, but with his head out, and looking around as if much astonished.

Brooklyn Engine No. 2,

Of Algiers: members in an elegant dress of white and black; engine decorated with a State flag, a gold eagle and decorations, and the famous miniature man-of-war of the Algerines, the "Brooklyn," with its brass pieces peering out at the port-holes and its long tom over the stern. The little ship was made out-and-out by a member of the company; and when the company fell out of line, after the procession, on Canal street, the little ship touched off her guns for a parting salute.

David Crockett Engine No. 2,

Of Gretna; a fine lot of men in red and black; the engine brightened up, but not decorated.

Milneburg Engine No. 1,

Of Milneburg; members in red and black; their beautiful little engine tastefully ornamented with flowers and a State flag. This was the last of the suburban companies; then came the city companies.

Lafayette Hook and Ladder No. 1.

A large State flag with a wreath at the head; members in blue and black; truck and ladders newly painted, and decorated with a little State flag, and blue ribbons on the lanterns; a noble-looking company.

Mississippi Steam Engine No. 2.

Drawn by four black horses; the engine, named the "H. L. Goodrich," a splendid affair, brilliantly polished and shining as if made out of pure silver, and decorated with a white wreath and a pelican flag; the members in their usual elegant dress of white and black, and accompanied by their pet exempt horse.

Vigilant Engine No. 3.

Members in red and black; their banner beautifully fringed with flowers; a large wreath and a bouquet on the engine, and the brakes covered with ribbons of different colors; their gray horse at the head of the rope.

American Hook and Ladder No. 2.

Members in blue and black, marching in open order, with their exempt horse, "Brown Dick," inside; the truck beautifully decorated, with the only "Flag of the South" in the procession; that is, a flag of red and white stripes, with six stars in the form of a cross on a blue field as wide as the flag; a sheaf in the center, composed of cotton, sugar-cane, corn and rice, in full bloom and true to the life; with other handsome ornaments. This is a great company, and always presents a fine appearance.

Columbia Engine No. 5.

Members in red and black, accompanied by their exempt horse, "Johnny Gray;" engine decorated with a golden eagle and horns, and a number of beautiful wreaths and other floral ornaments; a fine turnout.

Louisiana Hose Steam Engine.

The beautiful steam engine "Pioneer," drawn by six white horses; a large wreath of flowers around the chimney, and white streamers; members in blue and black, marching in open order with their pet horse "Dandy Jim" inside; an elegant and attractive turnout.

Mechanics' Engine No. 6.

Members in red and black, with their white horse at the head of the rope; a rich wreath on their banner; engine decorated with State flags, wreaths and blue streamers. A very large and manly looking company.

Eagle Steam Engine No. 7.

This company had along, as guests, a delegation from Neptune No. 2, of Mobile, dressed in blue and black, and carrying a beautiful Alabama State flag. The Eagle boys were in red and black, and had their splendid steam engine decorated, with a huge and splendid bouquet of flowers in the chimney's mouth, and a basket of flowers over the machinery.

Phœnix Steam Engine No. 8.

The steam engine highly burnished, with a gorgeous wreath in front and a large bunch of flowers on the chimney; the truck also beautifully embellished with flowers; two horses at the head of the rope; the members in red and black. This company presented its usual gay and powerful appearance.

Hope Hook and Ladder No. 3.

Members in red and black, with a large State flag and rich wreath upon it; truck and ladders newly polished and painted, and decorated with the company's life-size statue of Hope, with a golden crown on her head, leaning on her golden anchor, and pointing upward; the whole resting on a throne of velvet and satin; the other ornaments were a beautiful blue flag, a large and splendid wreath, and a floral star; a very handsome turnout, in all details.

Creole Engine No. 9.

Members in red and black, with a large State flag, and Jordan's band; their beautiful new engine decorated with a wreath and broad blue streamers, and tapping its bell as it went along. This, one of the very best of the down-town companies, looked as hale, hearty and commanding as ever.

Louisiana Engine No. 10.

Members in red and black, preceded by pioneers with axes. Their engine, a new one, of light structure and great beauty, was decorated with four State flags, and the brakes handsomely ribboned. The company is a strong one and made a fine show.

Irad Ferry Engine No. 12.

This company had with them as guests a delegation from No. 6 of Mobile, dressed in red and black. No. 12's men were also in red and black; their engine was decorated with an arbor of flowers, with gold and green leaves, and a State flag. This company made as strong showing as ever.

Washington No. 8 of Mobile.

This company was the special attraction of the day; not only on account of having come from Mobile, but because of the great number of members, their fine personal appearance, and the splendor of their machines and decorations, by all odds the finest in the whole procession. The members wore white shirts slashed with red, and black pants. Their engine, a new and costly affair, glittered like a casket of silver, and had for its chief decoration a pile of silver pitchers, goblets, a liqueur-stand, etc., the rewards of their triumphs at home; engine and all making a magnificent display. Their hose carriage was similarly splendid, and was decorated with a gorgeous sheaf of flowers from Mme Olympe's establishment on Chartres street, and with other elegant and beautiful ornaments. This Mobile company preceded the company of which they were the guests—

Perseverance Engine No. 13.

This company, as usual, turned out in red and black, and in great force. Their new engine made its first public display, and was the only one in the line that divided the honors with the Mobile engine. In its floral decorations it was far ahead of anything in the procession. The brakes were spread out wide, and so abundantly garnished with sheafs of large flowers, and with festoons, and wreaths, and the other triumphs of woman's fair hands, that at a distance it looked like a small flower-garden coming up the street. The floral decorations were the gift of the company's staunch friend, M'me Olympe, of Chartres street. The No. 13 boys had Gessner's band with them; and, altogether, they made a gallant and most splendid display.

Philadelphia Engine No. 14.

Members in red and black; a large crowd, with a beautiful wreath on their banner; the engine beautifully fixed off with an arbor of roses, surmounted by an eagle (a real eagle, but dead and stuffed) with a wreath in its beak. The company's pet exempt horse, "Old Nig," walked along without a leader, as proud as a general; having on a beautiful harness of silk ribbons, a purple velvet cloth, and a crown on his head; the present of the ladies. On "Old Nig's" decorations was printed in gold letters, "Thirteen years of active service." He was the prettiest and most attractive pet horse in the procession.

Jackson Engine No. 18.

Members in red and black, carrying their Jackson flags; the engine splendidly decorated with arches and wreaths of flowers, a golden eagle and streamers, and other tasteful embellishments. The company turned out in great strength, and made a most imposing appearance. As the procession passed up Camp street, this company received a most exquisite wreath with satin filling in which were the words of presentation, mottoes, etc., in letters of silver spangles. It was all the handiwork and the gift of a sweet young miss, the daughter of Mr. J. R. Creed, of this city.

Washington Engine No. 20.

Members in red and black; the engine decorated with a wreath on the chimney and ribbons on the brakes. The company showed largely in the line. Had they received their new engine, as they expected, they would have had something to show that they might brag of.

Pelican Hook and Ladder No. 4.

Members in white and black, and in large force, with an uncommonly fine assortment of presents and decorations. At the head was a gigantic wreath of dahlias and roses, with gold and silver leaves, and gilt hook and ladder crossed inside, the gift of Miss Mazureau; a beautiful blue silk flag, the present of Mesdames Seemes and Dumont; and floral offerings by the same ladies; two wreaths presented by Mayor Monroe. The truck was festooned with red and white flowers from end to end; in the center was the company's golden pelican, perched on its throne of blue and white satin; at the ends, ribbons of the Louisiana colors wrought up into the shape of pine-apples; and the numerous wreaths tastefully disposed, fore and aft. The company's exempt horse, "Pete," was along, with a big wreath around his neck. The display of this fine company was never better.

Orleans Engine No. 21.

Members in blue and black, with the St. Mary's Orphan Boys' brass band, marching in open order, and their pet horse "Charley" inside; the engine plentifully and beautifully decorated with flowers.

Jefferson Steam Engine No. 22.

Members in red and black; the steam engine splendidly burnished up, and but little decorated.

Chalmette Engine No. 23.

Members in red and black; their horse "Hoosier" at the head of the rope; their beautiful new engine having no other decoration than a State flag on the chamber. This is the far up-town company.

Crescent Engine No. 24.

Members in red and black; their banner ornamented with a splendid wreath; their very handsome machine set off with a golden crescent, and rich wreaths of flowers and ribbon decorations. This is the far down-town company, and was on this occasion the last, though not the least, in the procession.

The Route of Procession

Was between First street, in the Fourth District, and Maudeville street, in the Third District—a very long tramp, the circuits considered, but one which did not seem to fatigue the firemen in the least; for they are all used to the use of their legs. After

The Disbandment,

The companies passed each other with raised hats and with cheers of the heartiest. Good feeling and joy ruled the day. The Mobile firemen were much cheered and otherwise complimented at many places. In good time the companies had housed their machines, and then they set about finishing the holiday according to their various fancies.

Incidents of the Morning.

PRESENTATION OF A PORTRAIT TO MR. A. A. LIPSCOMB, BY PELICAN HOOK AND LADDER NO. 4.—Previous to the parade quite an interesting incident took place at the hall of Pelican Hook and Ladder No. 4. It was the presentation of a splendid full-length portrait of himself to Mr. Alfred A. Lipscomb, who filled the responsible position of Foreman of the Company during the past five years.

The whole thing was gotten up as a surprise, and so successful were the members in keeping the secret, that it was not until Mr. Lipscomb was called up by the present Foreman, Mr. Frank Piffet, that he was made aware of the honor intended him. Mr. Frank Piffet, in presenting the portrait, said:

Mr. Lipscomb—On behalf of Pelican Hook and Ladder Fire Company No. 4, allow me to offer for your acceptance this testimonial of their friendship for you as a man, and of their high appreciation of your long and faithful services as their commanding officer.

As the spokesman of the Company on this occasion I cannot refrain from bearing witness to the truly noble and manly traits you exhibited during your long administration as chief officer of our Company.

Always wise in council, the Company under your guidance was prosperous and respected by its fellows. Always first to answer to the calls of duty, Pelican Hook and Ladder Company, led by you, earned and maintained that high position in the Fire Department which is now the source of so much satisfaction to your brother members.

If as a company we have met dangers and won applause, we cheerfully and freely acknowledge our indebtedness to you, our leader in those dangers, pledging ourselves never to do aught that would have a tendency to undo what you have done.

In ancient times whenever their fellow-citizens sought to perpetuate the fame of a man eminent for his deeds in behalf of society, they raised him a statue or placed his portrait on the walls of their public buildings, that the rising generation might be incited by this great honor to emulate his deeds.

It is with such a view that we have caused to be traced upon this canvas your image. And it is with great hopes that by viewing your fearless countenance and hearing the story of your deeds, not only the present, but future generations will seek to win fame by like acts.

Although taken completely by surprise, Mr. Lipscomb responded to this address in a few eloquent and appropriate words, which, without any attempt at oratory being made, struck the right cord in the hearts of his hearers.

The company then adjourned to a flowing bowl of punch, and drank the health of their late foreman, after which they took up their line of march for Canal street to take their place in the procession.

The portrait is exceedingly well executed, representing Mr. Lipscomb in his foreman's uniform rallying his company to a fire. It is the work of Messrs. B. & L. Moses, photographists, of Camp street, and reflects great credit upon them as artists.

We were many other pleasant presentation scenes about town in the morning. There were few companies, in fact, who did not receive some token or several tokens of the esteem of their friends. We could not be everywhere at once, so we cannot give all or one-fourth of the particulars; and if we could, our columns would not this morning afford the room for it all.

M'mes Seemes & Dumont, the fashionable modistes and milliners, at the corner of Royal and Bienville streets, testified in a striking manner their appreciation of the services of the firemen in saving their establishment from destruction a short time ago. Their floral gifts to Pelican Hook and Ladder No. 4, and to Phœnix No. 8, were among the most splendid and tasteful in the whole turnout. We heard that another company also received a handsome token of the kind remembrance of these ladies.

The splendid manner in which M'me Olympe, of Chartres street, decorated the engines of Perseverance No. 13 and Washington No. 8 of Mobile, we have already given some account of.

The garlands and bouquets handed by the ladies to the companies during the procession were so numerous that it would have been foolishness in us to endeavor to obtain a catalogue of them.

Incidents of the Evening.

After the disbandment of the companies, there were many social meetings and pleasant hob-nobbings between companies in pairs at different places.

Perseverance No. 13 did the handsome thing in the way of refreshments and so on, by the Mobile company, at their house on Perdido street.

Pelican Hook and Ladder No. 4, at their house on Basin street, hob-nobbed in pleasant and truly cordial style with Hope Hook and Ladder No. 3. They had a high old time of it, and many were the good things said and sung.

To Lafayette Hook and Ladder No. 1 we return our thanks for the very handsome manner in which they halted and cheered the Crescent office, on their way up town, in the evening.

One of the companies stopped in front of the St. Charles Hotel, and went into the barroom for "lemonades." Their exempt horse, who had walked faithfully with them all day, without being led or otherwise hothered, and who generally stands wherever left, waited till they all got through the passage, and then deliberately walked into the barroom after them. The thing created the most uproarious fun. Here we will have to "bite off" with the incidents of the evening.

At Night

The holiday spirit was visible not only among the firemen, but among all classes of the people. All the theaters were jammed, and the hall of Volunteer No. 1, at Odd Fellows' Hall, was a perfect gorge.

KILLED.—On the 23d ult. an affray occurred in Brown county, Illinois, between a Mississippian named Langford and a man named Howlitt, of Schuyler county, Ill., in which Howlitt was mortally wounded. Politics gave rise to the quarrel. Howlitt struck Langford with a stick, when the latter drew his pistol and fired upon his adversary. Langford surrendered himself up. Our correspondent says it is the impression that the killing was done in self-defense.

SEED CANE.—Some twenty acres of seed cane are offered for sale. The advertisement, appearing elsewhere, gives full particulars, and to it we invite the attention of all interested.

ASTRAY.—An advertisement appearing in another column gives notice that a large black Newfoundland dog can be obtained by his owner, upon proper application. See advertisement.

TELEGRAPHED TO THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

LINCOLN'S INAUGURAL.

[BY THE AMERICAN LINE.]

WASHINGTON, March 4.—*Fellow-citizens of the United States:* In compliance with the custom of the old United States Government itself, I appear before you to address you briefly and take in your presence the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the United States to be taken by the President before he enters on the execution of his office.

I do not consider it necessary at present for me to discuss those matters of the Administration, about which there is no special anxiety or excitement.

Apprehension appears to exist among the people of the Southern States that by accession of a Republican Administration, their property, their peace and their personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension; indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches, when I declare that I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.

Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations, and never recanted them, and more than this, they placed in the platform, for my acceptance and as a law to themselves, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read.

"*Resolved*, That the maintainance inviolate of the right of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of the power on which the perfection and endurance of our own political fabric depends, and we denounce the lawless invasion, by armed force, of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes."

I now reiterate these sentiments, doing so only to press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible, that the property, peace and security of no section are to be in any way endangered by the now incoming Administration. I add, too, that all the protection which, consistently with the Constitution and the laws, can be given, will be cheerfully given all States when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause, as cheerfully to one section as another.

There is much controversy about delivering up fugitives from service or labor.

The clause I now read is as plainly written in the Constitution as any other of its provisions:

"No person held to service or labor in one State under the laws thereof, escaping to another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation be discharged from such service or labor, but be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor is due."

It is scarcely questioned that this provision was intended, by those who made it, for reclaiming what we call fugitive slaves, and the intention of the law giver is the law—all members of Congress swear their support to the whole Constitution, to this provision as much as to any other. To this proposition then, that slaves, whose cases come within the terms of this clause, shall be delivered up, their oaths are unanimous. Now, if they would make an effort in good temper, could they not with nearly an equal unanimity frame and pass a law by means of which, to keep good that unanimous oath?

There is some difference of opinion whether this clause should be enforced by national or State authority, but surely that difference is not a very material one. If a slave is to be surrendered, it can be of but little consequence to him or others, by which authority it is done, and should any one, in any case, be content, his oath shall go unkept on merely unsubstantial controversy. As how it shall be kept again, in any law upon this subject, ought not all safeguards of liberty known in civilized human jurisprudence be introduced, so that a free man be not in any case surrendered as a slave, and might it not be well at the same time to provide by law for the enforcement of that clause in the Constitution which guarantees that the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of the citizens in the several States?

I take the official oath to-day with no mental reservations, and with no purpose to construe the Constitution of laws by any hypocritical rules; and while I do not chance now to specify particular acts of Congress as proper to be enforced, I do not suggest it will be much safer for all, both in official and private stations, to conform to, and abide by, all those acts which stand unrepealed, than to violate any of them, trusting to find impunity in having them held to be unconstitutional.

It is seventy two years since the first inauguration of a President under the national Constitution. During that period fifteen different and greatly distinguished citizens have in succession administered the executive branches of the Government; they have conducted them through many perils, and generally with great success. Yet, with all this scope for precedent, I now enter upon the same task for the brief Constitutional period of four years, under great and peculiar difficulties. A disruption of the Federal Union, heretofore only menaced, is now formally admitted. I hold that, in contemplation of universal law and the Constitution, the union of the States is perpetual. It is implied if not expressed in the fundamental law of national Governments. It is safe to assert that no Government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination. Continue to execute all express provisions, and our national Constitution and Union will endure forever; it being impossible to destroy it except by some action not provided for in the instrument itself.

Again, if the United States be not a Government proper, but an association of States, in nature of contract merely, can it, as a contract, be practically unmade by less than all the parties who made it? One party to a contract may violate it, break it, so to speak; but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it?

Descending from these general principles we find a proposition that, in legal complication, the Union is perpetual; confirmed by the history of the Union itself. The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed, in part, by articles of association in 1774; it was matured and continued by the Declaration of Independence in 1776; it was further matured, and the faith of all the thirteen States expressly plighted and engaged that it should be perpetual by the articles of Confederation in 1778, and finally, in 1787, one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the Constitution was to form a more perfect Union; but, if the destruction of the Union by one or by part only of the States be lawfully possible, the Union is less perfect than before the Constitution, having lost its vital element of perpetuity. It follows from these views that no State upon its mere motion can lawfully go out of the Union; that Resolves and Ordinances to that effect are legally void, that acts of violence within any State or States against the authority of the United States, are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances.

I therefore consider that, in view of the Constitution and the laws, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. Doing this, I deem it to be only simple duty on my part, and I shall perform it, so far as practicable, unless my rightful masters, the American people, shall withdraw the requisite means, or in some authoritative manner direct the contrary. I trust this will not be regarded as a menace, but only as the declared purpose of the Union, that it will constitutionally defend and maintain itself.

In doing this there needs to be no bloodshed or violence; and there shall be none, unless it be forced upon the national authority. The power confided to me will be used to hold and occupy and possess the property and places belonging to the Government, and to collect duties on imports. But beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among people anywhere. Where hostility to us in any interior locality shall be so great and so universal as to prevent competent resident citizens from holding the Federal offices, there will be no attempt to force obnoxious strangers among the people for that object. While the strict legal right may exist in the Government to force and exercise these offices, the attempt to do so would be so irritating, and so nearly impracticable withal, that I deem it may be better to forego for the present the use of such officers.

The mails, unless repelled, will continue to be furnished to all parts of the Union, so far as possible. The people everywhere shall have that sense of perfect security which is most favorable to calm thought and reflection. The course here indicated will be followed, unless current events and experience shall show modification or change to be proper; and in every case and exigency my best discretion will be exercised according to circumstances actually existing, and with a fervent hope of a peaceful solution of the national troubles and restoration of fraternal sympathies and affection.

There are persons in one section or another who seek to destroy the Union at all events, and are glad for any pretext to do it. I will neither affirm or deny, but there he such. I need address no words to them. To those, however, who really love the Union may I not speak before entering upon so grave a matter as the destruction of our national family, with all its benefits, memories and hopes. Would it not be wise to ascertain precisely why do it? Will you hazard a desperate step while there is a possibility of any portion of the ills you fly from having no real existence? Will you, while certain the ills you fly to are greater than all the real ones you fly from? Will you risk the commission of so fearful a mistake? All profess to be content in the Union if all constitutional rights can be maintained. Is it true, then, that any right plainly written in the Constitution has been denied?

I think not. Happily, the human mind is so constituted that no party can reach to the audacity of doing this. Think, if you can, of a single instance in which an plainly written a provision of the Constitution has been denied. If, by the mere force of numbers, a majority should deprive the minority of any clearly Constitutional right, it might, in a moral point of view, justify revolution; it certainly would, if such a right were a vital one; but such is not our case. All the vital rights of the minorities and individuals are so plainly assured them by affirmation and negations, guarantees and prohibitions in the Constitution, that controversies never arise concerning them. But no organic law can ever be framed with a provision specifically applicable to every question which may occur in practicable administration.

No foresight can anticipate, nor any document of reasonable length contain, express provisions for all possible questions. Shall fugitives from labor be surrendered by national or by State authority? The Constitution does not expressly say. May Congress prohibit slavery in the Territories? The Constitution does not expressly say. Must Congress protect slavery in the Territories? The Constitution does not expressly say. From questions of this class spring all our constitutional controversies, and we divide upon them into majorities and minorities. If the minority will not acquiesce, the majority must, or the Government must cease; there is no other alternative for continuing both acquiescence on one side or the other. If the minority in such case will secede rather than acquiesce, they make a precedent which in time will divide and ruin them. For a minority of their own will secede from a minority when whenever a majority chooses to be controlled by such minority. For instance, why may not any portion of the new Confederacy, in a year or two hence, arbitrarily secede again, precisely as portions of the present Union claim to secede from it? All who cherish these Union sentiments are now being educated to the exact temper of doing this. Is there such a perfect identity of interest among the States to compose a new Union, as to produce harmony only, and prevent renewed secession? Plainly, the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations, and always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, is the only true sovereignty of a free people. Whoever rejects it, does of necessity fly to anarchy or to despotism. Unanimity is impossible. The rule of the minority, as a permanent arrangement, is wholly inadmissable; so that rejecting the majority, the principle of anarchy or despotism in some form is all that is left.

I do not forget the position assumed by some that Constitutional questions are to be decided by the Supreme Court; nor do I deny that such decisions must be binding in any case upon parties to suit as to the object of that suit, while they are also entitled to very high respect and consideration. In all parallel cases, by all other departments of the Government, and while it is obviously possible that such a decision may be erroneous in any given case, still the evil effects following it being limited to that particular case, with the chance that it may be overruled, and never become a precedent for other cases, can better be borne than could the evils of the different practice.

At the same time, candid citizens must confess that if the policy of the Government upon vital questions affecting the whole people, is to be irrevocably fixed by the decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made in ordinary litigations between the parties and personal actions, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their government into the hands of their eminent tribunal; nor is there in this view any assault upon the Court or the Judges. It is a duty from which they may not shrink to decide cases properly brought before them, and it is no fault of theirs if others seek to turn their decisions to political purposes.

One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes that it is wrong and should not be extended. This is the only substantial dispute. The fugitive slave clause of the Constitution and the law for the suppression of the foreign slave trade are each as well enforced, perhaps, as any law can be in a community where the moral sense of the people imperfectly support the law itself. The great body of the people abide by the dry legal obligation in both cases, and a few only break over in each. I think it would be probably cured (and would be worse in both c