New Orleans Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
—OF—
THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

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FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2, 1866.

For late papers from the West we are indebted to the clerks of the W. R. Arthur.

The officers of the Red River steamer National have our thanks for a copy of the Alexandria Democrat of the 31st.

Mr. Alfred A. Boyd, messenger of the Commercial Express Company, will please accept our thanks for favors.

For Galveston papers we are indebted to the purser of the Rapidan, and Mr. Louis Hall, purser of the Hans.

THE JEFFERSON JIMPLECUTE.—We had the pleasure of receiving a call yesterday from Mr. Ward Taylor, Jr., editor of the above well known and popular paper. As evidence of the flourishing condition of the Jimplecute, it has been considerably enlarged, and has lately been changed from a weekly to a semi weekly. Mr. Taylor is here with a view of getting material to make his paper still more attractive, and, we presume, would not object to adding a few more to the list of New Orleans advertisers which he already has. Jefferson, as is well known, is at the head of the usual navigation on Red River, and the center of a fine cotton and grain region. Mr. Taylor informs us that there is a great deal of cotton up there yet, and they are getting ready to make a plenty more this year. He will remain in the city a week or two.

THE LATE COLONEL FORNO.—The telegraph yesterday morning announced the sudden death of Col. Henry W. Forno by the explosion of a locomotive boiler on the Jackson Railroad. The news came sadly upon our old citizens, who, for nearly forty years, had known him as a patriot, a gallant soldier, and a man of a warm heart and generous impulses. He must have been nearly sixty years of age, yet when last we saw him, a few weeks ago, he was seemingly as active and vigorous as most young men. He had occupied many public positions in civil life creditably, among them Chief of Police of this city; but it was as a soldier he was best known and most admired. It was a life he was passionately fond of, and few men without a military education equalled him in the knowledge necessary to the profession of arms. At the earliest intimation of danger, when Gen. Taylor was at Corpus Christi, on the eve of the Mexican war, Col. Forno raised a battalion and rushed to his assistance. He was among the first in the field in the late civil war. He entered the Confederate service as Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth Louisiana, of which he soon became Colonel, and was conspicuous among those heroes who have immortalized the fields of Virginia, for his cool, steady courage and soldierly skill. That he may enjoy eternal peace will be the prayer of all who knew his many virtues.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.—*Gold* opened weak yesterday, owing to a decline of ⅛ ⅌ cent. in rates at New York on Wednesday. Offerings were moderately heavy, but the demand was of a very restricted character throughout; and on the receipt of dispatches quoting a further decline in the New York market up to 12 ⅌. yesterday, business almost came to a stand-still. Transactions for the day exhibited a very limited aggregate, and the market closed flat at 139¼@139¾, against 139¾@140¼ on the previous evening.

Foreign Exchange has declined fully 1@2 per cent. since our last. Offerings, which had been previously far in excess of the demand, have been materially augmented under recent heavy sales of cotton, and the principal buyers still keep out of the market awaiting much lower figures. Yesterday's sales were but little, if anything, above the previous daily average for sometime past, and the market closed heavy at 150 at bank for sterling, 148@149 for clear bills, 146½@147½ for bills of lading bills, 3.73¾f.@3.76¼f. for bank francs, and 3.80f.@3.85f. for outdoor francs.

Domestic Exchange was in better supply yesterday, but offerings did not exhibit a corresponding increase with those of Foreign Exchange. Rates at bank for checks on the North indicated no variation whatever, but there was an evident downward tendency in private and commercial, more especially noticeable, however, in short sight and time drafts. The movement for the day was to a moderate extent, and the market closed languid at 1@1¼ ⅌ cent. discount at Bank for sight checks on the Northern cities and ¼@½ and ¾ ⅌ cent. discount out of doors, ¼@½ discount for five and ten days' sight, 1@1¼ for fifteen and twenty days', and 1½ ⅌ cent. discount for thirty day drafts.

Bank Notes and Securities are very dull. Offerings of favorite classes continue restricted, and the demand is irregular for any description. Transactions yesterday very very light at about previous figures.

Cotton was very firm at the opening of the market yesterday, but subsequently became weaker under the downward movement in Foreign Exchange. Transactions for the day were confined to 1480 bales at Wednesday's prices, the market closing unsettled at 40@42c. for ordinary; 44@45c. for good ordinary; 46@47c. for low middling, and 48@49c. for middling.

Sugar and Molasses have undergone no variation of any kind since our last. With a limited supply and light receipts, prices continue firm, but we have to report for yesterday sales of only 30 hhds. of the former, and 100 bbls. of the latter, at full previous figures.

Flour and Grain rule as at the close of business on Wednesday. The lower grades of Flour are scarce and in request, at full prices, while the better qualities are in fair supply, at former quotations. Sales yesterday, 800 bbls., without any quotable alteration in rates. Grain rules as for some days past, and the demand and supply exhibit no feature for special notice.

Provisions are steady at previous figures, except Pork, which yesterday exhibited a further advance of 50c. ⅌ bbl. on round lots, with sales for the day of 250 bbls. at the enhanced figure.

Reduction of Bank Capital—At a meeting of the stockholders of the Canal Bank, held yesterday, it was resolved to reduce the capital stock of the bank 50 ⅌ cent. A book will be kept open at the bank for sixty days, to enable absent stockholders to register their votes, after which the reduction will be made unless a majority should dissent.

ST. CHARLES THEATER.—The Webb Sisters had as fine a house last night as any the Keans had, and we can briefly express our opinion of these young ladies by saying that they deserved the house and all the admiration the house expressed for them. They repeat the performances to-night in which they showed such remarkable versatility last night.

THE VARIETIES.—Mr. Barrett's *Claude Melnotte* last night challenged the unstinted applause of one of the most intelligent audiences we have ever seen assembled in a New Orleans theater. To-night he appears as *Romeo*, and a rare treat is in store for those who shall see his rendering of that most devoted and poetic of Shakspeare's lovers. The entire cast, with the charming Mrs. Chanfrau as *Juliet*, is such as warrant the conviction we shall have a genuine Shakspearean performance.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The military pantomime, in which Hernandez's clownish antics are so heartily amusing, continues to be the principal attraction at the Academy; not the only attraction, however, but the others are so numerous we have not space to name them. The spectacle in the battle scene of the pantomime is very exciting, and the nerve of those pretty girls who play Zouave leads one to doubt if they would not go into a genuine fight without being pushed in.

THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

Taken in connection with the recent authenticated exposition of the President's views on the question of reconstruction, the recent attack of Mr. Stevens on the Executive has great significancy. As usual, it is almost impossible to gather from the very confused language of the telegraphic report, a precise idea of the nature of this assault on the Presidential policy; but it is very clear that the radical leader has declared war against the President on behalf of himself of and that portion of the Republican party which he represents. The inference is, that the radicals are determined to carry through their projects if possible, but that they have lost all hope of winning over the President to a support of their designs. Indeed, the report of recent conversations between Mr. Johnson and certain radical members of Congress, would indicate that the breach between him and the radical party is so wide and irreparable that no partisan expedient can fill it up or bridge it over.

Some time ago it was suspected that the President might be induced to favor some of the constitutional amendments which the radicals, by imposing the acceptance of such amendments on the South as conditions precedent of political rehabilitation, hoped to make the instrumentality of accomplishing their purposes. Prominent among these expedients thus to be presented in the shape of amendments to the Constitution, was that of forcing the South, in one way or another, to enfranchise the negroes—a project dignified by the radicals with the sounding title of "manhood suffrage," and which has now been converted into the captivating phrase of "making all men equal before the law." Mr. Johnson had unqualifiedly expressed his opposition to any attempt to force such a measure on the Southern States. He maintained the old Democratic ground that suffrage was a matter properly within State control, and which ought to be left within State control. But he had, in a general way, declared a preference for the electoral basis of representation, over the practical total population basis.

It is quite probable that Mr. Johnson had not considered the frightfully demoralizing effects of this system when he recommended it; and it appears now that he never meant that it should be proposed to the Southern States as a condition to be accepted by them on pain of exclusion from the Union. Inregard to the first point, it is probable that the radicals themselves have foreseen the consequences to which the competition among the States for increased representation would inevitably lead, should the electoral basis be adopted. They have therefore avoided this difficulty by retaining the total population basis, but excepting from the count all such persons as any of the States might, for reason of race or color, exclude from the enjoyment of the elective franchise. Thus, the effect of the amendment would be felt exclusively by the South. Should the Southern States continue to discriminate against the negroes, in bestowing the right of voting, they would lose about eighteen representatives in Congress, and the relative power of the Republican party would be strengthened to that extent. As the radicals know it to be extremely malikely that the South will ever consent to purchase eighteen votes in Congress at such a price as the enfranchisement of the negroes, it is probable that this amendment has been adopted as a measure looking to the preservation of party ascendancy.

There are two ways in which the South can meet this new issue thus relentlessly forced upon her. She can persist in refusing to ratify the amendment, and wait until time and the inevitable mutation of parties shall have overthrown the supremacy of the radicals, in the mean time maintaining her present anomalous relations with the Federal government; or she can ratify the amendment, and conform to its conditions according to her view of the relative evils of diminished representation and of negro suffrage.

Should she choose the first course, she can, it seems, rely on the powerful support of the President. Mr. Johnson has recently declared, in the most authoritative manner, that his views on the subject of constitutional amendments have undergone a change. He sees the danger of this system of incorporating every theory and every political vagary of a temporarily dominant party into the fundamental law of the country. Moreover, whatever may be his own views as to the propriety of any proposed alteration or amendment of the constitution, he is not prepared to exercise coercion on the States to force them to conform to his opinion. And, a refusal to permit the States to exercise their rights as members of the Union would be compulsion of the very worst kind.

The President declares now that his own action in prescribing terms to the late Confederate States, in so far as this seemed to imply that he would not recognize them as States unless they should comply with his conditions, was meant to be only advisory. His desire was that the Southern States should adopt such a course as would bring them into harmony with the public sentiment of the rest of the country and with the executive branch of the government, and thus facilitate the task of reconstruction. He had, by no means, intended that his requirements should be viewed as conditions precedent, which the executive, or any branch, or all branches of the government had a right to impose on any of the States. His general conclusion is, as it always has been, that these States are, in fact, in the Union. The refusal of Congress to admit their representatives is simply an act of injustice, which cannot deprive them of any rights. In fact, the argument used by the radicals in this matter is exactly an argument in a circle. They exclude the Southern Representatives on the ground that the Southern States are not in the Union, and they declare that the Southern States are not in the Union because they have no representatives in Congress. In fine, the President maintains, and very justly maintains, that representation is but one of the rights of a State under the Constitution. Exclusion from Congress does not, therefore, prevent such excluded States from exercising other constitutional rights, over which Congress has no control.

☞See second page for future auction sales.

ITALIAN OPERA.—Donizetti's beautiful opera of "La Favorita" was performed in the most artistic manner last night before a very discriminating but a very slender audience. M'me Ghioni was really superb. She sang "Oh mio Fernando," in the fourth act, with a power and pathos that have rarely been equaled. Mancusi was magnificent as the *King*; his sonorous voice vibrated through the theater and thrilled the entire audience. Susini is still labaring under the effects of a sore throat, but gave occasional glimpses of great power and ability.

The last appearance of this troupe, which is really excellent in some of its members, will take place to-night. The light and elegant opera of "Elisir d'Amore," by the same prolific composer, Donizetti, will be given; and the last occasion of hearing the charming Canissa, as well as Mancusi and Marra, should not be neglected by the musical amateurs of New Orleans.

We hope this troupe will receive a parting acknowledgment as profitable as it will prove flattering.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE ITALIAN TROUPE.—Max Strakosch, the liberal and efficient empresario of the Italian Opera Troupe, addresses a very pleasant and complimentary card to the public of New Orleans, which will be found under the head of "Amusements," thanking them for the abundant patronage with which his efforts have been received.

We part with that classic and accomplished artist Ghioni, and with Canissa, Mancusi and Marra with regret. Signor Susini's indisposition has up to this time prevented a full manifestation of his powers.

Mr. Strakosch promises to return next season with his troupe largely re-enforced, and we can assure him that the more talent he brings with him the greater will be his profits and his reputation.

The New York Tribune is howling for Gen. Forrest's blood. It wants him tried by a military commission, and wants Secretary Stanton to do it.

The Environs of New Orleans.

NUMBER FOURTEEN.

From the fields of Chalmette, the battle ground, to the English Turn, where the road towards the Bayou Terre aux Bœuf settlement leaves the river, is about ten English miles; so that we may compute the whole distance from the city towards that bend, by the river road, from 15 to 16 miles. We have walked that way, from the city and back again, more than once; however, in the summer season, it would not be desirable, in the hot sun, to perform that task on foot. Besides, there is no longer any necessity for such bodily exercise, since the Mexican Gulf Railway offers all the facility for reaching, at little expense, that or any other locality, from the lower or Third District to the very shores of Lake Borgne. How much further down the English Turn, upon the river Mississippi, may have been located the first fort, built by Bienville in 1720, when exploring the banks of the river for an eligible site in order to found a permanent settlement, we have not been able to ascertain; historical records being somewhat confused in that respect.

It is mentioned that fifty-four miles from the mouth of the Mississippi, Bienville had the fort laid down, which was afterward abandoned, we suppose, when, in 1720, the foundations for the city of New Orleans were prepared, for which purpose fifty laborers had been assigned the task in clearing the banks of the river of the trees and canebrakes then occupying the immediate margin of the stream. Again, at some other place in the written historical record, we find that Iberville, the elder brother of Bienville, and who had taken the river route, ascending from its mouth, first at the distance of some thirty miles designated a place for the erection of a fort (that was about the present site of Fort St. Phillip, or Plaquemines), and that proceeding still higher, again at the distance of thirty-three miles, he ordered the fort to be located which Bienville afterwards erected, as already stated. Now, the reader will perceive there are some discrepancies in this enumeration, the first going fifty-four miles from the Balize, and the other making it sixty-three, or thirty and thirty-three added together. However this may be, no vestige of this fort having remained, unless plans be reserved in some of the ancient archives of our Louisiana surveyors, we must content ourselves in knowing that this first settlement of the discoverers of the Mississippi, was situated below the English Turn some seven or ten miles, more or less. Towards this distance, or rather, we should say, to about forty miles below the city proper of New Orleans, extended, in 1816, when we ascended the river in the summer of that year, the rice and sugar plantations in full yield, or *rapport*. The rice plantations were of course those nearest the lower settlements, whilst the important sugar estates grew thicker the nearer one would approach the capital of the State.

Our progress in the river from the mouth or the Pass at the Balize, was indeed very slow, for there were then no tow boats, and when the wind was unfavorable, on account of the bends of the river the ship's crew had to set foot on land, and by dint of warping the vessel, and hauling or towing her by ropes or lines made fast to the upper parts of the mast, the points had to be doubled or turned, and this way of going ahead was often a very tedious one. Let our readers figure to themselves the banks of the river little cleared of trees and entangled thickets, the levees—or what might be of them, invariably at some distance from the immediate margin of the stream; then, when the warp, or the anchor was carried out by the boat or jolly, some dirtance ahead and made fast to some sturdy tree or old trunk, the crew had to return on board the vessel, and begin the monotonous work of heaving away at the windlass. Again, when the command was given to go ashore and take hold of the line for the crew to haul or tow the ship along against the current, this part of the work was often attended with considerable hurt and risk, the shores of the river being composed of a soft, slippery, loamy soil, where the foothold was none of the surest; and then the way had to be made through the above mentioned trees and thickets, that reached to the very edge of the water. Through all these difficulties the men of the ship's crew had to pass, and often when holding on without our hand to the overhanging trees, pass the rope, or line, to the men in advance of the gang.

These maneuvers were of the most fatiguing sort, and the springing up of a light breeze that would enable the ship to make use of her sails, would be hailed with delight by the whole of the men and boys thus harrassed by incessant toiling. More than once some sailor or boy of the sea-faring crew would slip from the margin and drop into the muddy eddy of the stream, when immediately the shout would go up, to frighten the poor devils, "look out for the alligator, he is at your trowsers." Now, this might be called fun, but the poor cabin boys that never had been away from the northern seas, around the Cattegat or Helgoland bays, where there are no such Southern monsters as the Mississippi alligator or crocodile, would frighten them in their sea-bathing or sea-swimming, did indeed dread this advertisement as the very sounding of the shipwreck guns, the distress signal of a foundering, rock encircled sail. How much easier now for the sea vessels coming up our river by the help of steam, being taken in tow at some distance even in the gulf, and set down at the very wharves of this city. It took us then fully eight days from the Balize to the levee of New Orleans, for we arrived at the foot of St. Peter street, opposite what was then called the Hotel Tremoulet, forming the corner of Old Levee and St. Peter streets, at about 12 o'clock the 10th or 11th of July.

Whilst upon this passage, ascending the river, we had more than one occasion to visit the farms and plantations on either shore, for, as already stated, our progress in the above described manner, was indeed very slow, and every night we had to make fast to the bank of the river, because going to anchor in the stream, would ever have been attended with more work or labor to the crew, on account of the great depth of the Mississippi. In this manner we visited the first lower settlements, when the owners had just began cleaning the ground and fencing for some pasture enclosures. These settlements were indeed very poor, and the people themselves looked emaciated or as if they had been suffering from the surrounding swamp atmosphere. But higher up, when we came to the rice farmers, things looked considerably more comfortable; we were offered all sorts of eatables, fowls, pigs, other live stock or provisions of which the crew of the vessel stood in some need, after an ocean passage of some sixty days. Here we observed for the first time the manner in which the rice was cleaned of its covering chaff, though this was the very old fashion of having the kernels stamped out by great heavy wooden pestles, pillows or knobs which were set in motion in a sort of stamping mill, turned by a mule going around. Aye, we even saw some smaller mills, upon the same principle turned by hand. Now steam engines are employed we understand for the purpose of cleaning the rice of its chaff.

We must observe upon this occasion that our Louisiana housewives give invariably the preference to the home-made rice, or creole rice, as it is called, over the foreign, or South Carolina rice. They allege that, although this latter looks fairer, whiter, and is less broken than the Louisiana rice, still it has not the strength, substance or flavor of that made upon the delta of the Mississippi. I leave to others more versed in this matter the decision, how much of this view may be tinged with some exaggerated notion or pride for home-made or soil-bred (Creole) productions; for us it suffices to have noted this peculiarity in culinary discussion. After leaving the rice plantations, we came to the larger sugar plantations, which increased in size the nearer we approached the city. The number of the negro cabins, which were regularly built in rows, some distance from the master's buildings, and called the negro camp or quarters, always indicated the importance of the estate by the number of the labor hands which could therefrom be computed.

We have mentioned in some former number that the planters after the cession of 1803, had experienced considerable difficulty in recruiting their labor force, although the northern markets stood open to them for buying whatever black labor hands their sugar and other fields might require. The difficulty, after the war, was removed by some American and other speculators undertaking to go to the northern markets and bringing to Louisiana desirable labor hands, affording to the planters a means of recuperating their wasted labor gangs. In this manner we have known that the great supply of hands for many planters who had even lost the greater part of their labor forces by the invasion of the British army, was finally satisfactorily obtained.

Arrivals at the Principal Hotels.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL.—C H Williams, Baltimore; S H Young, U S A; S A Pitts, Marengo county, Ala; J J Alston, city; R E Dent, Altoona, Ill; C W Muscher, England; W A Balch and two ladies, Michigan; W H Hoddemps, Manchester; R J Wiley, Montgomery; J C Whittaker, city; L G Joseph, Mobile; T Keating, W J Matthews, St Louis; J A Riley Jr, Mobile; J A Buckner, city; W C Hickcock, city; F H Perkins, La; F A Moore, U S N; D Devine, Tex; W R Jones, Boston; Dr Perkins, La; Mr Dougharty, Baton Rouge; J M Nash, Cincinnati; J F Ferguson, Tenn; D B Treadwell, Tenn; S B Beaumont, Tenn; H Pierce, Liverpool; J K Huey, Ky; T Joseph, A J Carter, Ala; W Champerbier, E J Carr, Galveston; A J Snow, Pa; T Prince, Ala; Dr Mathews, Louisville, Ky; H A Jones, Ala; Miss Jarvis, St Louis; J D Allen, N Y; Mrs J H Price, La; A J Roster, Nashville; Mrs D Toure, Covington; J C Gleason, Camden, Miss; J P Smith, do; J C La Vaske, San Antonio; W Baldwin, San Antonio; Mr Hackett; J L Lewis, La; H Baumgarden, Tenn.

ST. LOUIS HOTEL.—T J Carter, N Y; Dr J Richard, Woodville; E W Larkin, Gainesville, Miss; J S Peterson, city; Mr McCoolay, St Louis; Mr Austin, J G Lombard, N Y; S N Goodale, Cleveland; W G Kneeland, Shreveport; J H Ferguson, city; H H Hubbard, La; S Well; R J Walker; J Van Pelt, N Y; B H Peterman and wife, N Y; H A Nesbit and wife, St Louis; O A Belton and wife, R I; P V O'Neil and Miss J H O'Neil, Miss M P Hedges, Mrs Lane, Bossier parish, La; S J Ward and wife, St Louis; J L McClean and wife, Mrs M Sale, Memphis; O Weitzell, St Louis; W Ramsay and wife, J G Lassach, J H Savage, H Deris, city; E T Lanas, Miss; H G Monten and wife, Texas.

Brown jr, Tenn; E E Tennison, J R Gainey and wife, Miss G Phillips, J M Gilliont, Miss; J W Blair and daughter, Tex; D M Mailing, J K Dura, Miss; A J Raherr, Va; G N White, Tex; T Patrick, Tenn; S W Hensley, Va; J Overman, J E Bush, J P Beesley, Miss; W L Moody, Texas; Miss E Davies, Aimie; E G Cor, W Chamberlin, Galveston; L Wolfley, city; N T Spur, St Louis; H Spencer, Shreveport; T L Hunt and family, J Thom, N C Eatherwood, Texas; J D Stewart, Jackson; R S Buck, Vicksburg; J H Ellis and family, La.

CITY HOTEL.—J Stewart, E L Watson, W J Mann and wife, Jackson; C B Bowman, Gen Davis, R Francis, J J Yarborough, La; J M Gilbert, W T Warren, Miss; T J Vernon, J R Halley, A Houghtelling, St Louis; M Von Tegrel, A J Moore, L J Hewitt, Galveston; J McLaughlin, La; A B Branch, J C Marsh, P O'Connor, J Middleton, D Haynes, J Haynes, J M Virus, H Day, J M Murphy, Texas; A Byrne, J A Graham, J M Gwain, Ark; C D Rea, B White, Ala; W A West, Texas; T H Murray, Texas; J F Riggs, Texas; T Wallace and family, Washington; T J Herndon, St Louis; M Marx, M H Rothstch, L McQuaon, city; M J Christman, A Lewis, A H H Brown, Nashville, Tenn; A

ST. JAMES HOTEL.—W F Sneed, Point Coupee; E Leigh, Sunflower county; M H Smith, Ala; A M Ashbridge, city; Mrs Rawlings, La; A M Miles; H D Summers, Grand Gulf; G B Marshall, H Fontaine, J D Johnson, Rapides parish; C M Clemaces, Ga; S C; W Guthrie, La; R S Jackson, Natchitoches; W P Garrison, La; S W Colt, D L Tally and family, Mrs J W Howard, Shreveport; B L Samuel Texas; J M Gaddis, La; S N Nihan, Ill; G S Myers, Alton; Dr A V Roberts, J M Hollingsworth, DeSoto, La; H Pulliove, T Pulliove, W Heningerford; C N Robinson, Tex; A C Watson, La; G Wetzpe, St Louis; W McDaniel, Ky; Miss McDaniel, Natchez; Miss M Mapples, Dr J R Evans, Bossier parish; U E Wynne, W F Fisher, Cincinnati; O L Sanford, Conberra; J L Sanborn, Portland; J L Breese, city; Dr J S Cheshire and wife, Shreveport; J H Hardison and wife, Liberty, Texas; Mr McBoyle, Brenham, Texas; C C Balfour, O T Morgan, Miss; N Young, La; Miss Freeman, Col W Lyons and family; Mrs S G Clark, W W Catching, G C Fore, Jackson; W L Towner, Waco, Texas; W H Thompson, C A Hester, J F Paton, J B Strathern, Hinds county, Miss; J B Hemphill, Kosciusko, Miss; A H Ford, Canton, Miss; Dr C M Lillman, Greensboro, La; Mrs E Womack and family, do; E Dale, Mrs K Tarleton, C Niedermeiry, Miss; D L Wingfield; E Sallo, Mrs M V Leak, Miss L V Salle, Holly Springs; Miss O Lewis, Miss G Harris, Miss F Britton, Miss; J D Freeman, Col J D Stewart, Jackson, Miss; H S Fox, S Jacobs, Houston; J Angelman, M Deutsch, Gonzales; H M Ellsworth, J Eisner, Houston; B Dean; A Pierce, Liverpool; W McD Sims, T D Clement, Miss; Dr B B Barnett, Clinton, La.

JOHNSTON'S HAT STORE.—At No. 32 St. Charles street, directly opposite his old stand under the St. Charles Hotel, Dave Johnston, the most popular hat dealer in New Orleans before the war, has opened a shop, and invites his old customers and as many new ones as the old ones can bring to give him a call. By reference to his advertisement in another column, it will be seen that he is supplied with the assortment of articles which are indispensible to the completeness of a hat store. While Dave was in the Confederate service some patriotic people thought it a pity his property should be rebel property," and so they made it loyal property by making it their property. Though they broke up his business they have not broken his heart, and he has gone into the hat line again with a soldier's vim, and will, we predict, "make the fur fly."

☞Late and important from the Rio Grande on second page.

LIFE INSURANCE.—We learn that our former well known fellow-citizen, Col. Forno, who was so suddenly deprived of life by the explosion of the locomotive Sultana, Wednesday, on the Jackson railroad, left a substantial memorial of his prudence and forethought; having secured some two weeks ago a policy on his life in favor of a member of his family for the sum of five thousand dollars, in the Travelers' Insurance Company, of Hartford, Connecticut. This amount, we understand, will be promptly paid by Mr. Harmon Doane, general agent of the company, No. 97 Camp street, upon presentation of the requisite proofs. This new system of insurance against loss of life and disabilities by accidents has received an illustration of its benefits in the case of Col. Forno's family, which will mitigate to some extent the sorrow felt at the dreadful fate of an old and respected citizen of New Orleans.

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE. Our neighbors Montgomery & Bro., will sell Saturday next, at the Merchants' and Auctioneers' Exchange, at 12 o'clock m. the very desirable residence No. 120 Orange street, near the Annunciation Square. Any of our readers desirous of purchasing a desirable residence should not fail to attend the sale, as it offers strong inducements, and will no doubt prove a profitable investment.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WIDOW OF STONEWALL JACKSON.—To-night an entertainment, varied and interesting, will be given at Odd Fellows' Hall, for the benefit of the widow and orphan daughter of that immortal soldier and patriot, Stonewall Jackson. The entertainment will consist of an oration by Mr. John W. Overall, a gentleman whose oratorical abilities are well known to our citizens, and a grand concert by accomplished amateur performers and vocalists of both sexes. The programme will be found in our advertising columns. It is hard that the respected relict and child of so great, so pure and so good a man should be dependant upon public or private benevolence, but so it is, and let us not forget what we owe to his memory.

CALIFORNIA WINES.—We have received from our close neighbor, Mr. C. A. Richards, samples of California wines, hock, muscatel, still champagne and angelica. In compliance with the wishes of the doctor, these samples have been tried by the CRESCENT corps, and it was universally agreed that the CRESCENT could advise its wine drinking readers that Dr. Richards' wines are wines.

Passengers per steamship Rapidan, Capt. McConnell, from Galveston:

H L Hart, lad and children; B Dean, Eleanor, Mrs St Much and child, C W Kimball, Tuchi D C Wilson, J Angleman, M Hachbrecht, Reedy, W H Reynolds, Mr Allen, Mr Fox, Conway, C Shoenick, P Wakeley, T Lonman, J Reney, W B Arnold, J Lanaks, N Waldrin, J W Hodges, W H Rainwoth, W E Eldenwood, - Jacobs, and others.

Messrs. Gardner Smith & Co. will close the sale in the succession of T. F. Guion, this day, commencing at 10 o'clock. All articles purchased must be removed immediately after the sale.

FINE BILLIARD TABLE AT AUCTION.—Attention is called to the auction sale today at 11 o'clock by Messrs. Nelligan & Von Zinken, at the Crescent Auction Mart, 105 Gravier street, of a No. 1 billiard table of Phelan's make, with balls, cues and everything complete.

New Orleans Academy of Sciences.

At a regular weekly meeting, held at the Museum Hall of the Academy, on Monday evening, the 22d inst., measures were adopted to restore this institution to its former condition of usefulness. Spirited discussions upon the best methods characterized the meeting, but entire harmony of views resulted.

It was resolved to entreat by special notice, as far as possible, as well as by a general call through the press, all the former Fellows of the Academy, at the regular monthly meeting, to be held at the same place, (corner of Barone and Common streets) on Monday evening next, the 5th of February proximo.

Among other proceedings, the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

Whereas, It is of manifest importance to the city of New Orleans that the Academy of Sciences be reinstated to its former usefulness; therefore it is hereby

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in such papers in this city as the President may select, and that he be requested to accompany the publication with a succinct sketch of the Academy, and of the financial difficulties embarrassing its operations; together with reference to the labors of those who have contributed to its usefulness, and who have been removed by death from among us.

Were I to attempt, Messrs. Editors, to fulfil completely and to my own satisfaction the requirements of the above resolution, the trespass upon your courtesy would, I fear, be excessive; while the length of the article would detract from its immediate usefulness. I shall, therefore, try to be very brief. Founded in the city nearly thirty-seven years ago, the charter of the Academy declares its sole object to be the advancement of science, properly so called, in all its various departments.

Its original founders were Josiah Hale, M. D; Edward H. Barton, M. D; Noah B. Benedict, M. D.; J. S. Copes, M. D.; John L. Riddell, M. D.; Wm. P. Riddell, A. B.; Howard Smith M. D.; Bernard Dowler, M. D.; Wm. H. Lardner, M. D.; Albert W. Ely, M. D.; Isaac Dorr Chassereau, M. D.; Mr. Edward C. Bolton; H. D. Sidwells, M. D.; J. C. Simonds, M. D.; Prof. Wm. C. Duncan, A. M.; Rev. Wm. A. Scott, D. D.; Mr. D. F. Mitchell; Mr. Henry Hughes; Prof. R. H. Chilton; Erastus Everett, A. M.; Rev. Alex. Campbell, D. D.; Rev. Isaac J. Henderson, A. M.; J. M. W. Parton, M. D.; Prof. Cobb G. Forshey; Maj. Albert G. Blanchard; Damon Moughton, M. D.; Mr. F. M. Corry.

These were soon joined by others, both as Fellows and corresponding members. By a provision of the constitution Fellows must reside in this city or its vicinity; but corresponding and honorary members may reside in any part of the world.

It has continued its uninterrupted labors through most of the years since its foundation, with scarcely any interruption until the iron hand of war dispersed its members, suspended its functions, and crushed and crumbled its fair collections of science and art into fragmentary results.

Pecuniarily, it has been sustained ab initio by the voluntary contributions of its Fellows, assessed and collected in accordance with their own rules. It is pleasant, however, to be able to modify this general statement, by referring to the enlightened courtesy of our city government, which several years ago, when a war, invited the Academy to occupy apartments in the City Hall; to the Board of Administrators of the University of Louisiana for a similar invitation, to the large wing on the corner of Barone and Common streets; and to the State Legislature, which subsequently granted to the Academy a portion of the same edifice, which it still holds.

These tenders of substantial aid and encouragement to the pursuits of science, were made because it was plainly seen by its chartered and by its annually published proceedings that its aims were as wide as possible from selfishness, or from a desire tending to the elevation or aggrandisement of any class or calling at the expense of another.

The leading subjects embraced in its operations may be very summarily grouped.

To place in the city of New Orleans a varied and, as nearly as possible, a complete Scientific Library, keeping its books, maps, charts and illustrative drawings abreast of the times by purchases and systematic exchanges with the principal, as this and corresponding with the principal learned bodies of the civilized world, has been, from the first, and no doubt will continue to be, a leading object. Directly, and through the courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, this pursuit has been successful to the extent of collecting a library such as few have equalled with the Academy before the war supposed to exist in our State.

This exchange of its published proceedings has been sought by similar institutions in many of the most enlightened countries of the earth; scientific men everywhere apparently participating in the desire to know more of our great delta and its contiguous southwest.

This well cherished aspiration of the learned world has always stimulated the Academy to desire not only to be able to publish its scientific proceedings, but also to collect, classify and properly display for study, the best possible museum of the natural history of the Southwest. Strangers of scientific tastes and attainments visiting our city esteemed it no particular privilege to be invited to examine what had been collected here from distant regions, nor indeed in any very marked degree did they value collections from other portions of our own country. But they did and do wish to see what we have, that illustrates our own geology, geography, flora, fauna and hydrauliks. Knowing this, the New Orleans Academy of Sciences, mainly through its own Fellows and corresponding members, but partly by the unceasing kindness and co-operation of the Smithsonian Institution, had collected prior to the war, if we consider its age, a highly respectable and very useful cabinet of natural history, mainly from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Of national models too, it had become the repository and part possessor of a valuable cabinet; now all lost. In 1854 the city government determined after much and patient examination of the subject, to attempt the procuring of a full supply of pure water by boring an artesian well. The Academy did not at first encourage the hope of success as to the primary object, but as one such depth as that which would be necessary wherever the opportunity offered, the perforations of the Mississippi, and endless speculations existed as to the geologic strata upon which we live, apart from the blessing of a plentiful supply of wholesome water, they believed that the geological interest of such a work was exceedingly great to every one living in this portion of our State, and to every enterprise of civil engineering. They, therefore, in a spirit of candor encouraged the enterprise for the sake of the many real benefits which would be certain to result from what promised to be a comparatively inexpensive attempt.

By a communication from the Common Council, in 1854, the Academy was requested "to appoint a committee to attend to the work." Such a committee was appointed, and, in the words of their report presented in November, 1856, "the members, as well as the Academy at large, have watched with increasing interest the progress of the enterprise from its commencement to the present hour. Not a blow has been struck that has not been duly recorded, not a stratum penetrated, nor a particle of matter been brought up, of which ample specimens have not been preserved." Were these specimens now in the Museum, their value would be only estimated by gentlemen engaged in experimental researches for the protection of our silvan lands. Only a few days since it was a subject of deep regret that, upon a visit of Gen. Humphreys and Gen. Abbott to the Museum to examine these specimens, only twenty eight of them could be found. The extensive and invaluable series is broken and lost. There exists but one mode of restoring it. Had the ruthless depredators known this, perhaps never they would have forbore to the irretrievable destruction. To place the Academy once more on a footing, at least as to that its old glorious work properly appreciated by the Common Council, the people of this city and the cause of science generally, regarding this important series of specimens. The late President obtained a military order for the protection of the Museum, Library and properties of this Academy in its state. To what extent this order was obeyed, let the present debris of these cherished collections silently testify.

Upon the secretary of the Academy, much is left with propriety be said and ought in justice to be done lest, more space in such a brief sketch is allowed. As it is, I dare not even the names of our honored dead can be given. Among the founders, Dr. Josiah Hale, the first President of the Academy—the eminent botanist and writer upon the Flora of the Southwest, the conscientious man, the skilful and benevolent physician, is held in reverential esteem by his surviving fellows.

Dr. Edward H. Barton, his friend and successor in the presidency, was so well known through his writings, on both sides of the Atlantic as to require no commendation in the hands of his colleagues in this Academy.

As a meteorologist, hygienist and physician, ever vigilant to ascertain by closest and most untiring observation, the causes of disease, and so ready in all cases, for the public benefit, to communicate his prophylactic means as through the press, he illustrated the patient devotion of the sisters to his favorite pursuits; and the fame of our city, as the home of the learned and the benevolent.

Succeeding him comes into the presidency, Dr. John L. Riddell, Professor of Chemistry in the Medical School of the University of Louisiana; a man of such varied, profound and accurate acquirements, both in science and letters, as to make it impossible here to enumerate even the more prominent of his contributions to the aggregate of human knowledge.

Elected in 1856 his manifold abilities and eminent fitness for the presidency caused his unanimous re-election year after year, until his recent death. Nor did he underrate this mark of the esteem and confidence of his compeers and fellows; but, on the contrary, he exerted his wonderful powers in a devotion, fervent and attentive freely for the advancement of the great objects of the institution.

But there was one spirit more devoted than his. One, whose powers of head and heart were most fully given to the promotion of the usefulness and the elevation of the higher forms of this Academy, than were those of any other. All acknowledged his pre eminence. None envied him the deference he received. That honored name was Dr. Noah B. Benedict, in all probability the best scientific secretary of this condition; whose records alone stamp him with the indefatigable zeal of truth, wisdom and philanthropy. So long as he lived, the Academy would elect no other to his place. All were willing in and him—to serve under him—none to supersede him.

It is scarcely just to name so few among the honored dead but time and propriety would fail, were I, in such a cursory sketch as this, even to allude to the distinctive marks of the many, who by their talents and their virtues have, in their measure, contributed to the usefulness and honor of this Academy. It will, however, be expected of me to mention, among those who have contributed largely to secure for the Academy the attention and co-operation of learned men and scientific bodies throughout the world, as Fellows, Dr. Samuel A. Cartwright, Rev. Dr Campbell, Judge P. H. Benoist, Judge Thos. H. McCaleb, Prof. R. H. Chilton, Pr