New Orleans Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
—OF—
THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

A. C. BLAKE, Editor and Proprietor.

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TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1866.

The Gazette papers we are under obligations to Mess. Kenner, of the Cotton.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.—The Gold market yesterday exhibited no variation of any kind that calls for special notice. Offerings were simple throughout, and the demand was as [illegible] for some part of a very restricted character, [illegible] 34½, which were the opening and closing figures. [illegible] was slightly firmer yesterday [illegible] but lost adapted to Saturday's rates, [illegible] very moderate sales for the day, the market closed [illegible] at 144¾ for bank sterling, 145@146 for other bills, 144@144¾ for bill of lading bills, [illegible] for bank francs, and 5.37½@5.32½ for [illegible] francs.

Sterling Exchange has uniformly ruled in favor of drawers and sellers since our last. Offerings of [illegible] and commercial were light from the opening to the close of business, and the demand for accommodation at the banks was of a very active character throughout. Rates of sight on the Northern cities advanced from ¼@½ discount at bank, and 2@2½ per cent. discount out of doors, which were the ruling figures on Saturday evening, to 1 discount buyer at bank, and ½@¾ per cent. discount out of doors, with a corresponding improvement in short sight and in time drafts.

Bank Notes and Securities have been very inactive since our last. Offerings of classes most in request continued restricted, and the demand for all other descriptions was at no time much better than nominal. The only sales of any importance that transpired were $12,000 of Union Bank, Citizens' City Bank and Bank of New Orleans notes, at a price that has not transpired, and $78,000 Opelousas Railroad, first mortgage bonds, with the coupons attached, at 80@75.

Orders opened languid yesterday. Most of the leading factors refused to uncover their samples, except at improved prices, whilst all of the buyers, with a very few exceptions, stood off, awaiting a still further reduction in rates. This movement was further impeded by rumors of a later arrival from Europe, quoting middling cotton at 17½d., but transactions, nevertheless, amounted to 1760 bales, at Saturday's quotations, which were 33@ 34c. for ordinary, 40@41c. for good ordinary, 43c. for low middling, and 45c. for middling.

Sugar and Molasses exhibit no increase in receipts. The supply is still light and sales yesterday were restricted to 150 hhds. of the former and 150 bbls. of the latter at full previous figures.

Flour and Grain.—The supply of flour continues very limited, and the tendency of the market is steadily upward. Sales yesterday were restricted to 800 bbls. at improving rates. The movement in corn shows a still further decline, owing to still increasing receipts, with sales yesterday of 9000 sacks at 80@85c. ex bushel for mixed, and corresponding rates for other qualities. Oats and bran there is no quotable variation of any kind to notice, and but little increase or decrease in the daily operations.

Reduction of Bank Capital.—At a regular meeting of the stockholders of the Mechanics' and Traders' bank, held yesterday, in pursuance of previous notice, it was unanimously resolved that the present annual capital of the bank $1,500,000, should be reduced to a tangible capital of $750,000, thereby offering prospects for future regular dividends and successful movements. Books will be kept open at the bank for sixty days to afford absent stockholders an opportunity to register their votes.

Election of Bank Officers.—The Board of Directors of the Merchants' Bank, at a regular meeting on the 14 inst., unanimously elected J. M. Denman, Esq., President, and A. Luria, Esq., Secretary, for the present year. The directory could not have made better selection. Mr. Denman is an old and highly esteemed merchant of our city, as well as a former director of the bank—whilst Mr. Luria has been connected with the Merchants' Bank from its establishment with but one short interruption, and had previously from his boyhood been connected with the popular banking houses of James Robb, Esq., and of James Robb & Co.

DELEBAR'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.—The increasing patronage this institution is receiving is a good sign of a proper appreciation by Southern young men of the necessities of the times. The course of studies, in whole or in part, will be found not only useful, but necessary, in many pursuits of life, not classified as mercantile or financial, and no man can properly regard himself as qualified for the higher walks of commercial life, or monetary business, who has not mastered the curriculum so judiciously selected by Mr. Delbear, and ably teach under his experienced supervision. Those who may have determined upon a commercial pursuit will not fail to avail themselves of the advantages presented by this institution, but, as we have already intimated, planters and others may also profitably do so. Without a knowledge of bookkeeping and its branches no man can be a complete commercial lawyer. Perhaps the high standing of Mr. Benjamin in that line was in no slight degree owing to his thorough knowledge of bookkeeping, which he did not think beneath his attainments.

LEE VARIETIES.—"Rosedale" again last night held its own at the Varieties, and drew a full house. This, we are informed, is the last week of Mr. Barrett's engagement, and as we shall all miss him greatly when he leaves, let us enjoy him while he is with us. "Under the Palm" is the piece selected by him for to-night. He is said to have applied it to great advantage before in this city. We were in other parts at that time, and cannot, therefore, speak by the card, but can say we have never seen him in anything yet in which he was not both entertaining and instructive.

LECTURE ON BRAZIL.—According to a notice already published, a lecture will be delivered tonight at the Representatives' Hall, in the Mechanics' Institute by Gen. W. W. Wood, on the empire of Brazil, descriptive of the country, climate, soil, minerals, productions, etc. Gen. Wood, who formerly lived in this city, and later in Mississippi, has just returned from Brazil, and will, therefore, speak from personal experience and observation. Those desirous of hearing for themselves about a country which has attracted much attention, would do well to attend Gen. Wood's lecture tonight.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The performance of the Ivy Effie at this house lately are more and more astonishing. His tragedian doings are unequaled for daring and acting by any thing we have ever witnessed in the acrobatic way, and, although he seems so entirely composed as if there was not the slightest danger in what he does, the audience is in a state of breathless and painful apprehension until he descends from his perilous feats.

THE CIRCUS.—We are pleased to see that Mr. Dan Rice's theatre is beginning to be appreciated, as it should be, as one of the pleasantest places in town to spend an evening at. The drama of Jack Sheppard and Thief was given last night with a charming relish, and will be repeated tonight. The play is of the sensational class, but its dramatic situations are more than compensated by the musical interludes, which it is interspersed, whereby Mlle. Morand, with her superb voice, vindicates her old station as the greatest English songstress we have had on the New Orleans boards in her day, and Mr. Wattles performs exquisitely on an instrument of his own invention.

GOVERNOR WELLS AND THE STAR.

The Star of yesterday morning again comes to the rescue of Governor Wells, but with an assumption of impartiality strangely contrasting with its former declarations, that it was established expressly to support the administrations of President Johnson, Governor Wells and Mayor Kennedy. The administration of the President required no special champion in this city. The efforts of the Star have very naturally been directed to a support of the twin administrations which events have left as an unhappy legacy to the people of the State and of the city. Its efforts in fulfillment of this duty have been incessant and arduous. That they have not met with better success only shows that the merits of the cause were not by any means to be measured by the zeal of its defenders.

As an illustration of the impartiality which it has just assumed, our contemporary suggests an admirable expedient by which the differences between the Governor and the legislature might have been avoided. This plan consists merely in the implicit obedience of the legislature to all the desires of the Executive. Who can doubt the efficacy of this method of assuring perpetual harmony between the two branches of the State government? Who does not at once perceive the extraordinary combination of ingenuity and simplicity involved in this admirable suggestion? If the Governor wants to have a bill passed, what, asks our contemporary, is easier than for the legislature to pass it? If the legislature wishes to pass a bill, what, again demands the Star, is easier than to furnish the Governor with a copy, in advance, to alter it, modify it, change it, do anything with it that may make it acceptable to the Executive mind?

Let these things be done, and, we are assured there will never be any necessity for a veto. Clearly not. Nobody ever supposed that there could be any necessity for a Governor to veto his own measures, although the Governor of Louisiana has signalized his career by vetoing a bill providing for doing something legally, which he had himself been doing without warrant of law. But let that pass. We agree with the Star that when the legislature passes all the bills recommended by the Governor, and does not pass any with out previously obtaining his consent, there will no longer be any necessity for the use of the Executive negative. If they are not done we are to infer from the illustrations of our contemporary, that the State will immediately be divided into two hostile parties—the Governor on one side and the people and the legislature on the other side. The consequences of this strife will, we are told, be lamentable in the extreme. The State government will stand on the verge of dissolution; Louisiana will run the imminent risk of being provincialized, and turned over to the mercies of obdurate agents of the Freedmen's Bureau, of provost marshals and collectors of direct taxes, and all this because the legislature has been so indiscreet as to pass laws demanded by the public voice and the public welfare, in spite of the unreasonable and unreasoning opposition of the Governor.

Now when the Star tries to make the public believe that the relations of this State with the Federal government are in the slightest degree influenced by the action of the legislature on the parish and city election bills, its drafts on popular credulity will very probably not be honored. Everybody knows that the military authorities are anxious for a change of our municipal officials. The attempts to perpetuate the present anomalous condition of affairs does not come from them.

Moreover, the President has very distinctly stated that he had no intention to interfere in our municipal elections. Nothing less could be expected from him, as he must perceive the necessary logical association of the ideas of the restoration of State authority, and of the resumption of local civil rights. In his opinion, four years of war have not sufficed to impair the vitality of the States; yet the Star would persuade us that he will suppress the State government of Louisiana, on account of a municipal election in New Orleans. He has solemnly declared that he knows of no power that can destroy a State; and yet the Star wishes to make us believe that he will usurp that power, if the people of New Orleans venture to elect a mayor and aldermen, or if the legislature of Louisiana happen to disagree with Governor Wells on some matter of domestic policy.

It is idle to suppose that discrepencies so palpable, can or ought to shake the determination of the people of Louisiana to resume the exercise of rights which nobody but Governor Wells, and a small circle of interested officials would ever dream of denying to them. But on the other hand, if there really were danger to the State in this difference between the Executive and the legislature, if we actually do stand in imminent peril of those horrors so vividly described by the Star as likely to come upon us because of our little disagreement with our chief magistrate, why is it that Governor Wells persisted in exposing us to such dangers? There was no evidence of disagreement before he vetoed the election bills; and yet, knowing, as he alone knew, the terrible consequences of the act, he deliberately furnished the evidence which, on the showing of our contemporary, was to consign us to irretrievable perdition. The legislature was profoundly ignorant that any such calamities were to be the result of a difference of opinion with the Governor. That knowledge was securely locked in the recesses of the Executive bosom. It was never given to the startled public until by the Governor's own act the fatal issue was made. If the Governor really believes in the probable occurrence of those alarming contingencies with which we are threatened by his impartial champion, we have a right to accuse him of unkindness, nay of positive cruelty in subjecting us to these hideous perils, when he had it in his power to save us by a simple stroke of his pen. Governor Wells's name is extremely valuable, we know, but it could never have been more valuably employed than in this little service. Nevertheless, as he positively refused to bestow this act of gubernatorial grace upon his fellow-citizens we are compelled to believe that he is quite willing to sacrifice the rights of the State and of the city in the interest of a small circle of objectionable and unpopular officials.

☞See second page for future auction sales.

WILLCOX & GIBBS' Machine will sew, hem, fell, braid, tuck, gather, quilt, cord and embroider with perfect satisfaction. Willcox & Gibbs are repaired and warranted at No. 5 St. Charles street. Please call and examine.

List of passengers per steamship W. G. Howes, D. S. Austin commander, from Indianola and Galveston, Feb. 16, 1866:

S E McGregory, N H Najack, Lieut Davis, Lieut J S Stone, E G Carroll, Major J A Johnson, Lieut Benson, Lieut Sodenstrom, Lieut W H Park, Surgeon J E Ham, Sykes, Major Gabaille, Mrs Hoppenheimer and daughter, R F Strickland, J A Robertson, W H Gould (Stanton), Lieut Schring, Capt Cross, Lieut Jenkins, P R Cullin, Asst Surg R C Walden, Patrick, S H Buckhurst, Major Bumbaert U S A, J C Mosher, Lieut Morse, Capt Yoe, Lieut Beckins, Surg Grattany, W A Scott, J H Chandler, Lieut Col Miles, Major Willis, and 15th U S C I on deck.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—Mr. Hackett was greeted with a good house last night, and his *Falstaff*, in the "Merry Wives of Windsor," was, as it ever has been, unapproachable. To-night he appears in characters, in which he is also famous, *Nimrod Wildfire*, a Kentuckian of 1815, and *Doctor O'Cattaghan*, in "His Last Legs."

Passengers per steamship Montgomery, from New York, via Nassau:

Charles A. Dimond, A. F. Fay, P. A. Dillieson, G. H. Gaskell and lady, Mrs. S. H. Wheeler, Miss Clara Wheeler, Miss Eugenie Wheeler.

FLOUR, PROVISIONS, GROCERIES, WHISKY, ETC. The attention of dealers is directed to the large and varied assortment of merchandise advertised in our columns this morning by Messrs. Ethell & Thomas, 105 Poydras street.

WILLCOX & GIBBS' Family Sewing Machines are *heartily recommended* by all who use them. Willcox & Gibbs' Family Sewing Machines are absolutely complete. Office No. 5 St. Charles street.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD is offered by Mr. P. S. Kennard, for a trunk containing clothing and valuable papers and books, which was carelessly left on the wharf by the steamer Nicholas Longworth. Read his advertisement in another column.

(Special to the New Orleans Crescent.)

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, Feb. 5, 1866.

In my last I closed with an account of our arrival at Brazos. Before leaving the steamer I asked one of the officers if there was a hotel in Brazos. He briefly replied, "sort of a hotel." Upon landing, I hired a United States colored cavalry to "tote" my baggage to said hotel, and, sure enough, found that it was a "sort of a hotel." Pre-eminent as the only two-story house on the island, it promised well externally, its cupola especially wooing the stranger's better feelings. But it is, internally, a mere honeycomb of undressed plank, whitewashed, it is true, the rooms having a bottom and four sides each, but no top short of the roof; so that when you are in your room you can hear everything that is going on in every other room all over the house. The dining, baggage and sitting rooms, and the hotel office, are all one and the same room. The room I slept in contained two cots with blankets, but not a thing else—not even a hook or a nail—and that night I had to hang up my clothes on the floor. Table decidedly rough, and charge four dollars a day. I cannot conscientiously recommend the Rover, or Sort-of-a-Hotel, to the traveling public, though it be the best in the city—being the only one.

Besides the hotel, there is a shop or two, a few warehouses and a blacksmith's shop; these constitute the city of Brazos proper. All the rest is a military encampment of frame barracks and tents. There is a brigade of colored troops on the island, and some of these were about to be mustered out. The paymaster arrived there on the same vessel I did, and he was so welcome that the brass band turned out and serenaded him nearly all night.

Next morning I left the Sorto'a Hotel, and took the government railroad to White's ranche, on the Rio Grande, twelve miles distant. Here, government stores are transferred to steamers for Brownsville. There was a stage for passengers, and this I took. A ride of eighteen miles over a flat and dismal country, part prairie and part chapparal, here and there skirting the Rio Grande, brought us to the celebrated city of Brownsville, the southwestern jumping-off place of the United States. I hauled up at the only hotel, Miller's, where the accommodations are plain and the table good, at three dollars a day. Brownsville is a decidedly lively and bustling place; its business center being half shops and the other half whisky-shops, with a government office here and there. Population decidedly mixed; United States troops, black and white; citizens of all complexions and styles of dress; and swarms of peons, or Mexican Indians, who fill all the subordinate places and do all the drudgery and menial work of the town. They are a quiet, patient and leisurely-industrious set, and seem to make the most tractable servants in the world. Their settlements in the suburbs are novel, and I may describe them hereafter.

Yesterday morning I went over into the Empire, to take a look at the city of H. Matamoros. (The initial H., which you will notice in the papers and advertisements, as it is to be seen also on the signs in that city, stands for *Heroic*—Heroic Matamoros—because it has never been captured by any forces since the days of Zack Taylor.) Architecturally, the city disappointed me. After seeing the Cathedral, a shabby old affair, fronting the shabby old plaza, and the new theater, there is nothing to be seen but numberless blocks of flat-topped one-story bricks nearly all alike, with a two-story brick here and there, and narrow crumbling sidewalks, and the suburban mud-and-stick domicils of the peon population. The city covers much ground, but makes small penetration of the upper atmosphere.

The day being Sunday, I was present when the Cathedral disgorged its multitude. A few United States ladies dressed *a la* New Orleans, with cloaks, bonnets and hats, came out. All the rest, lady Mexicans of all shades of color, many ugly and some very beautiful, wore the invariable shawl, passed over the head and flung gracefully around the waist. Nearly all were cheaply dressed, rich dresses were rare.

In Matamoros there are about three thousand troops; consisting of native infantry, badly dressed and worse drilled; Austrian cavalry, in blazing uniforms of red and blue and all other colors; and an independent American or cosmopolitan battalion of cavalry scouts, comfortably but slouchily uniformed and garnished with big spurs and revolvers. These latter are paid sixty dollars per month in specie, or two dollars a day, payable daily, they finding or boarding themselves, which they are enabled to do at about twenty dollars per month. This leaves them forty dollars a month clear, and as their specie goes much further in Mexico than it would in the United States, it may be judged that they have a luxurious time of it for private soldiers.

But of Matamoros and Mexico more hereafter. The present Provost Marshal of Bagdad, is Victor Duprat, formerly of New Orleans.

J. G.

(For the Crescent.)

Why Don't the Legislature Call a Convention?

This question is daily asked, but who can answer it? It was expected by the people that this would be the very first act of their representatives, but, thus far, they have been sadly disappointed.

Is everything relating to the organic law of the State to be left in doubt and uncertainty? Every sensible man knows that the Constitution of 1852 is the only legitimately adopted Constitution of the State—and yet, every one knows equally well, that our present Judiciary—owing its existence to the abomination known as the Constitution of 1864—will recognize only that instrument by which it was created. This is a standing insult to Louisiana, and ought not to be endured longer than is necessary for a Convention to assemble to speak in the name of the people.

Then why does the General Assembly defer this their primary and most important duty? They clearly have as much right to call a Convention as to do any other act of legislation; and until they do so, and the Convention shall have performed its work, all other acts of legislation are vain and futile. Then why delay? Is it because the Governor and his appointees are opposed to a Convention? But why is the Governor opposed to a Convention? Is it that he wishes to perpetuate that usurpation of authority to which "the Constitution of 1864" owes its existence? Is it that he knows he has no grasp upon the popular confidence and fears his *throne* might be disturbed? What other objections can he possibly have? But are such considerations to deter the representatives of the people from the discharge of their most sacred duty? They are, on the contrary, potent reasons to impel them to prompt action. The Governor is, or *ought* to be, the *servant*, not the *master* of the people.

The spectacle which Louisiana now presents, through her legislature, is humiliating, not to say disgraceful—exercising the *semblance* of civil government, without the moral courage to assert the *reality*—acting under the provisions and restrictions of a spurious instrument, *which they know is not the Constitution of the State*, and disregarding the Constitution which was formed by the people, and adopted under the forms recognized in all the American States.

How the members of the legislature can reconcile this course of conduct with any enlightened sense of the obligation of their oath to "support the Constitution of the State," is passing strange. They seem to have concluded that Governor Wells or General Banks, or somebody besides the people of Louisiana, could abrogate the Constitution of 1852, and adopt another in its stead—a power which the sovereign of Great Britain, or the chief magistrate of any other constitutional government on the face of the earth, would never, at this advanced period of political civilization, pretend to assert; and then they appear to accept this needless humiliation as a condition for propitiating the powers at Washington. Unavailing servility! For now, after three months of this self-abasement, they find themselves and their State, whose rights and dignity they are thus compromising, as far from Federal favor as at the beginning. Nay, they have undoubtedly lost caste at Washington, as they have lost caste before the world for such manifest lack of self-respect in continuing our State under the yoke of usurpation when the remedy was at their hands. So it ever is and ever will be—men who have not the moral courage to assert their rights in a becoming manner, will forfeit the respect of their adversaries and the confidence of their friends. A temporizing policy, where great principles and interests are at stake, is always a bad policy, and the very worst policy that could be pursued in this instance.

Much as the delay that has intervened in calling a Convention is to be regretted, if not reprehended, it is still to be hoped that the legislature will not adjourn without responding to the almost universal wish of the people, and if the Governor for any sinister ends shall think proper to interpose his veto to disappoint that popular wish, let the responsibility and the odium of the act rest alone on him. Should he veto such an act his motives would be too transparent to be hidden by any disguise, and to overrule such a veto would be justified before the world. But it is a needless reflection upon the integrity and sense of responsibility of the Governor towards the people, from whom he holds his office, to believe he would veto such an act.

It will not do for public servants to believe that the spirit of the people has been so entirely crushed by their recent disasters that their rights and wishes can be safely trifled with or despised. The day of doom is not more certain than that the power of the people will yet be vindicated, and that their displeasure will be visited upon all their public servants who have violated their trust, or who have designedly or by neglect of duty contributed to fasten upon them the hated "Constitution of 1864."

ATTAKAPAS.

The Environs of New Orleans.

NUMBER TWENTY-ONE.

In one of our former numbers we incidentally mentioned that in some of our penetrating excursions through the swamp forests and prairies in the vicinity of our city, we more than once happened to find ourselves in most perilous positions. Some readers may have smiled at this mention of apprehended danger, and have placed it to account of some fanciful imagination; but whoever is more minutely acquainted with the peculiar condition of our soil, will not have found our account at all exaggerated. We shall, therefore, enter into some nearer details of this especial condition of the former surroundings of our city, before, more particularly, the system of draining canals had operated the present metamorphosis of the surface of our soil. In those times it was a no uncommon occurrence for hunters to lose themselves in the unfathomable morasses of the swamps, and the yielding bottom of the trembling prairie, so that it was the common custom to throw across the earth one's hunting gun or rifle the moment that the foothold was giving way under one's tread.

This arises from the nature of the alluvial soil. The bottom upon which the surface of our cypress forests, as well as our lake prairie, reposes, is actually not a solid one, well proved by the shaking, the heaving and swelling sort of motion to be met therein. Nay, the boring of an artesian well in Canal street, which was carried on for some hundred feet of depth, has sufficiently demonstrated that before coming to the solid blue clay strata, which forms the actual ground or subsoil of the Mexican Gulf coast, several layers of sand, loam and driftwood compose the upper strata of the alluvial soil, and that among these quicksand-banks are found in abundance, which sustain, as it were, the moving, trembling prairies. In the winter season numbers of cattle, horses and mules, which are left out in the forests, perish by stalling—that is to say, they get into such dangerous morass places that they cannot extricate themselves from their positions.

Then again we have often traversed the swamp regions in the midst of the dry summer season, when the heat of the sun would actually cleave the ground, and produce enormous fissures or breaches, in which both man and beast might sink without resurrection, to an unfathomed depth. Nay, there are stories that horsemen have disappeared in some localities, as if the earth had opened up under the belly of their horses and swallowed them entire as by enchantment. Hence, let not the unacquainted reader imagine that there was, and even at this present day is, no hazard in visiting the recesses of cypress forests and quaking prairie localities.

Having thus explained the nature of the danger of the soil, which former explorers of the surrounding wilds of our city had to guard against, we shall now proceed to indicate one or two particular localities, at present altogether reclaimed from their former condition. When entering the Gentilly road, a little beyond where now it is crossed by the Broad street canal, leaving the paved Bayou road, in ancient times, the wilderness began—that is to say, with the exception of a few patches of high ground, cultivated as gardens, a tangled forest commenced, running along both sides of the low or stagnant Bayou Sauvage. Here, and more particularly towards the old Marigny canal, which emptied its waters into a swamp that communicated with the Bayou St. John, was the real field of exploration for those in search of specimens of natural curiosities. For, in reality, that quarter was actually alive with all sorts of stirring creatures, from the innocent little snail to the dangerous rattle snake and alligator.

To venture into that region, one was not every day disposed, and yet there would be found the most fascinating reptiles that you could behold. Such a gorgeousness of colors, such hues of all the shades of the rainbow upon the subtile bodies of these shining creatures, it is impossible to describe; and what is more, to enjoy these living pictures of nature's production, is worth much more than the mere beholding of the inanimate dead covering of their beings in a museum or collection. Then you would see the movements, the passions displayed, the fire of those wonderful creatures when pursuing or watching their prey. Nay, there was pleasure, mingled with fear, when penetrating their hidden recesses, where, however, strange plants, rare specimens of nature's production, would recompense the hardy explorer's audacity. This locality, at the present time, no longer offers these allurements; the soil has been traversed by numerous draining canals; and at present, fields yielding rich harvests under the husbandman's culture, have replaced the former abode of nature's wild creation.

There is another locality, some where near the plain raquettes or the Indian ball plays, behind the old faubourg Marigny, which for a number of years resisted all the efforts, as it were, of reclaiming, by dint of draining canals. Into that almost impenetrable quarter we had tried often to advance to some favorite aquatic plants, some uncommon specimens of bullrushes, when at last we succeeded in obtaining the coveted prize, through an almost unfathomable morass. At the present day a splendid farm house occupies the site; still do the numerous cypress stumps, even in the midst of the gardens, bear witness to the obstinacy of the ground to yield their pristine nature to the invading force of modern civilization. Such were the hardships connected with the exploring jaunts, much more fatiguing than the mere fishing or hunting expeditions, of which I may not be amiss to make now some mention. As to the first, that of fishing or angling, the Bayou St. John, in those times, afforded a plentiful supply of pattersaws, crabs, crayfishes, and other members of the finny and crustaceous tribes. At present these have become much scarcer or rarer, because the waters of the swamps or canals are so much deteriorated that the fishes have nearly all left for the more healthier waves of the lake water and shores. As for the fishing in the lake by seine or angling, this was generally carried on by amateurs in some hired fishing boat, on Sundays or other occasion of business vacation. Upon this topic we must also make mention of the grand lake excursion parties on St. John the Baptist's day, the 24th of June, in summer, when nearly half the town would go to the waters of the lake, at the entrance of the bayou, near the old fort, now converted into a private residence or hotel, and take to swimming and bathing at that joyous season of the year.

This festival was duly honored by all the convivial spirits of the country, and with eating, drinking and carousing during the nights and days, particularly when fine moonshine should happen to accompany the occasion; whilst the great warmth of the day would render the night so pleasant and agreeable. Few now have an idea how then our forefathers did enjoy the good things of this world.

We have said that we would also state something about the then usual hunting or sporting expeditions. Here we must candidly acknowledge that we are not in our "forte," for, when having once or twice accompanied some juvenile amateur hunters and others in their sporting exercises, we could find no pleasure in staying out whole nights, lying down at one or two o'clock, beside a dreary pine-knot fire, to be up again at three in the morning; sitting immovable for a couple of hours upon an old cypress stump, or "borcoyan," waiting for the "pass," (the coming of the game) and then being told—after a thick fog would surround you, and you could not see two paces before your eyes—that the day's sport was over. We say we could find neither pleasure, profit nor pastime in such undertakings.

Hence, we gave up this branch of juvenile amusement, and although we do not deny the great exhilaration, which this manly exercise does procure, or afford, still we have ever found more genial pleasure in our way of pursuing the contemplation of Nature's creation. Now, we do not know whether all our readers will be of our opinion, for variety is the existence of life, and no doubt, others may find pleasure, even when disappointed after a whole day's waiting for the expected game to come on; and true, we have often listened to the recitals of deer and bear hunting by planters and others, but our vocation not allowing us to join in these chases, we cannot speak of them ourselves. If, however, our readers should find it to their liking to receive, as it were, from second hand, descriptions of these lively pastimes, we may be induced, in later numbers, to detail some of these hunting sports, of which the country parishes in ancient times afforded an ample field and occasion.

Letter from Mrs. Stonewall Jackson.

The Charleston News publishes the following letter addressed to the editor of that paper:

COTTAGE HOME, N. C., January 26, 1866.

My Dear Sir—Your letter of the 3d inst. was forwarded to me from Lexington, Virginia. I have delayed answer for a few days, hoping to receive the papers to which you referred, but it has not yet reached me, and I have not had the pleasure of reading your editorial; but, judging from the remarks in your letter, I suppose it is a similar publication to what has recently appeared in many of the newspapers, representing the family of General Jackson as suffering for the necessities of life, and appealing to the public for their relief.

It is a source of deep regret and mortification to me, and to my family and friends, that such a misunderstanding should exist in regard to my circumstances. It is true that almost the whole of my little fortune has been swept away. My noble husband, actuated by patriotism, invested in Confederate bonds, to assist the government, and I, following his example, the consequence was the loss of nearly the whole of his estate; but God has still left to me one of the kindest of fathers, who has the means of providing all the comforts of life for me and my orphan child. The pecuniary sufferings of others in our afflicted land have been so much greater than my own that, in this respect, I have only need of a more thankful heart. And I, of all others, should have no fears for the future—for the covenant-keeping God of my husband has watched over us heretofore, and the love of this great people to me and my little child, on his account, fills my heart with grateful joy.

While it is one of the greatest comforts of my desolated life to see the many beautiful and eloquent tributes to the memory of my beloved husband, and I would gratefully accept any offerings that are voluntarily given as testimonials of love and gratitude to him, yet the contributions that are now called for are given under a false impression, and it is inconsistent with my ideas of honor and rectitude to receive them. I would, therefore, beg that all efforts that are made to raise a fund for my "relief," both in Charleston and elsewhere, be immediately stopped.

With thanks to the warm-hearted and generous citizens of Charleston for their kind feelings towards me and mine,

I remain, yours very truly,
MARY ANN JACKSON.

Geo. B. Cathcart, Editor Charleston Daily News.

My address is Charlotte, N. C., care of Mr. Jas. P. Irwin.

DR. DEANDRIES' SARSAPARILLA BITTERS is reputed the best article of the kind in use. See advertisement in another column for agents from whom it can be obtained. Try it.

A NEW BAR ROOM.—Mr. William Schneider opens this evening his new saloon, corner of Baronne and Gravier streets, and duly invites his friends and acquaintances to be present.

FOR PENSACOLA AND APALACHICOLA.—Travelers and shippers will take notice that the fine and fast sailing steamship Tappahannock, Capt. Baker, will sail on Friday morning next for the above named ports. The Tappahannock is now ready to receive freight or engage passengers. Apply to her agent, Mr. L. M. Merritt, 47 Carondelet.

DIED:

At Lewisburg, La., on Sunday, February 18th, LUCIUS H. PLACE, white funeral will take place from the Grand Lodge Rooms, St. Charles-street, THIS DAY, (Tuesday,) February 20th, at 3½ o'clock p. m. His friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

MARION LODGE, NO. 68, F. & A. M.—Members of the Lodge are hereby notified to assemble at their Hall, THIS DAY, (Tuesday) Feb. 20th, at 3½ o'clock p. m., to attend the funeral of Brother LUCIUS H. PLACE, P. M. Warren Lodge, No. 67.

Officers and Members of the M. W. Grand Lodge, of the Grand Consistory of Louisiana, and all Master Masons in good standing, are invited to assist in paying the last sad honors to the remains of our deceased Brother.

By order of the W. M.
R. H. BROWN, Secretary.

On Monday, at 2½ o'clock a. m., of convulsions, THOMAS CHURCHWARD VERLANDER, aged six months and ten days, youngest son of Henry M. Verlander and Catherine Bowers.

☞ Shreveport papers please copy.

On Saturday, 17th February, at half-past 3 o'clock p. m., RICHARD S. THOMPSON, son of A. R. and Isabella J. Thompson, of Lisonia, La., aged seventeen years and six months.

The funeral will take place from the residence of E. Whitemore, No. 274 Sixth street, at 10 o'clock THIS FORENOON, 20th inst. The friends of both families are invited to attend.

Petroleum Vapor Stove
—AND—
GAS LIGHT,
THE GREATEST WONDER OF THE AGE.
On exhibition during business hours, and in full operation for cooking at 11 a. m.
106 Camp street, corner Poydras.
Ladies are specially invited to call and see the stove.

Just Opened,
—UNDER—
The Great Southern Billiard Hall, corner Canal and St. Charles street, a new supply of
FINE FRENCH SHIRTS,
latest style, with Marine collars, round and square, Garrote and Byron collars, only $3 50 each.
LEIGHTON & CO.

Carry Your Grist to the Mill.
GO TO THE FACTORY FOR YOUR SHIRTS.
BUY YOUR DRAWERS WHERE THEY ARE MADE.
BOYS' SHIRTS—NIGHT SHIRTS,
BOSOMS TO PUT IN SHIRTS.
And get the worth of your money, at
OUR SHIRT FACTORY,
CORNER CANAL AND ST. CHARLES STREETS,
Under the Great Southern Billiard Hall.
LEIGHTON & CO.

Albert Lyon's School
—OF—
SIXTY BOYS,
Chatawa, Pike County, Mississippi,
NEW ORLEANS AND JACKSON RAILROAD.
TEACHERS:
REV. ALBERT LYON.
ROBERT J. PERKINS.
JOS. C. ROBERT.
MISS F. MCGWAN.
A. & T. BARNARD.
CHARLES KRAUL.
The School is limited positively to sixty boys. To make this compromise never more pupils will be admitted.
Privilege of membership is extended only to those who will continue to the close of the session.
Applications, to be received, must be accompanied by an advance payment of fifty dollars. Admission will be granted in the order of application.
Catalogues of interesting particulars may be obtained after the 15th inst. of ROBERT PITKIN, Esq., 13 and 15 Camp street, New Orleans, or by addressing
REV. ALBERT LYON, Master.

Crescent Clothing Emporium.
ROBERT PITKIN,
13 and 15.....Camp street.....13 and 15
SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1866.
SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING.
Just received and now opening, for inspection, the most magnificent assortment of
READY-MADE CLOTHING
—AND—
GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS,
That he has ever had the pleasure of offering to his friends and the public generally.
WHOLESALE APARTMENTS UP STAIRS.
Gentlemen visiting the city would do well to give us a call.

National Express
—AND—
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.
NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.
TREASURER'S OFFICE
NATIONAL EXPRESS AND TRANSPORTATION CO.,
Richmond, Va., Jan. 23, 1866.
At a meeting of the Board of Directors of this Company, held on the 20th instant, the following resolution was adopted:
Resolved, That a further requisition of FIVE PER CENT. be made on the stockholders of this company, payable on the first day of February, 1866.
In accordance with the above resolution the stockholders who have subscribed in New Orleans, will pay the required assessment, without further notice, to Col. J. B. WALTON, No. 47 Carondelet street, who is authorized to receipt for the same.
J. V. H. ALLEN,
Treasurer.

Sewing Machines.
5.....St. Charles Street.....5
WILCOX & GIBBS' NOISELESS MACHINE.
BEST FAMILY SEWING MACHINE.
Virginia Patent—Simplicity and Perfection—Needle Cannot Be Set, Wrong.
HEMMER, FELLER AND BRAIDER
SUPERIOR TO ALL.
Agents wanted for Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas
NO. 5 ST. CHARLES STREET.

Lumber.
300,000 FEET CHOICE CYPRESS LUMBER,
1, 1¼, 1½ and 2 inches thick. For sale by
PURVES & PRAGUE,
92 Tchoupitoulas street.

Try
DR. DEANDRIES'
SARSAPARILLA BITTERS.

Scales! Scales! Scales!
FAIRBANKS & CO.'S
SOUTHERN SCALE WAREHOUSE,
9 TCHOUPITOULAS STREET.
Over one hundred modifications of these STANDARD SCALES, adapted to every required operation of weighing.
FAIRBANKS & CO.

Gold Pens! Gold Pens!
The undersigned have just opened a fine and large assortment of
GOLD PENS AND HOLDERS,
Tooth and Ear Picks, Gold and India Rubber
of every description, which they offer to the trade as well as to private parties, at LOW PRICES.
T. A. KELLER & JUL. HOERNER,
10 EXCHANGE PLACE,
Manufacturers and Dealers in Diamonds, Fine Watches and Jewelry.

Hats. Hats. Hats.
The undersigned invites the attention of buyers to his large and complete assortment of Men's, Boys' and Children's
Fur and Wool Hats,
of all colors, dimensions and quality.
STRAW GOODS—STRAW GOODS.
An elegant and complete line, now ready for the Spring Trade.
Men's, Boys', Ladies', Misses' and Infants', trimmed and untrimmed.
All of which will be offered unusually low.
S. C. HICKEY,
49 Camp street,
Importer, Manufacturer and Wholesale Dealer in Hats, Caps and Straw Goods.

H. & G. Soule & Co.,
17 MAIDEN LANE, NEW YORK,
Manufacturing and Wholesale Dealers in DIAMONDS, WATCHES AND FINE GOLD JEWELRY.
Branch of the above house at
No. 8 St. Charles Street, New Orleans,
H. S. WILLIAMS,
To whom all Southern orders can be addressed.

Madame La Blanch,
The greatest Clairvoyant and Seeress in the known world, and the only natural Spirit Visionist that has ever existed within the present century—the unequalled revealer of all that relates to either the Pass, Present or the Future. Horoscopes or Charts of life written by simply knowing date of birth.
Residence, No. 102 Bienville street, between Bourbon and Dauphine streets.

To the Trade.
WE HAVE ON HAND—
French G. D. CAPS, Ely's Colt's Pistol CAPS.
American .. .. .. E. B. Gun ..
Prussian S. B. .. .. D. W. .. ..
.. Waterproof CAPS, .. Musket ..
GUNS, PISTOLS, CARTRIDGES, POWDER, SHOT, And all kinds of Shooting Tackle.
We buy all our Goods direct of the Manufacturer in this country and Europe.
HENRY FOLSOM & CO.,
No. 3 Old Levee street,
Opposite the Postoffice, New Orleans.

*James Butler, Jr.,