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FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1866.

NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOUISIANA.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1866.

Senate.

Pursuant to adjournment from yesterday, the Senate met at noon to-day, Lieutenant Governor Voorhies presiding.

On the roll being called thirty-three members responded.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Hedges.

The journal of yesterday's proceedings was read, and with a clerical amendment, approved.

The following Senators were present during the proceedings:

Messrs. Anderson, Armstrong, Barrow, Bell, Brownlee, Brusle, Burthe, Campbell, Coco, Cooley, Duvigneaud, Ellis, Fellowes, Foute, Gibson, Gordon, Hough, Kavanagh, Kenner, Lapeyre, Lott, Mohan, Munday, Nelson, Newton of Jackson, Newton of Morehouse, Palfrey, Poché, Purcell, Scruggs, Taylor, Welsh and Wilcoxon.

Mr. Brusle, from the Committee on Enrollments, reported as correctly enrolled the bill to amend the second section of the Alexandria State Seminary act.

Mr. Burthe introduced a bill to amend the second paragraph of the first section of the act fixing the terms of the district courts. The object of it was to remedy an oversight, by which the parish of Plaquemines had been allowed less than the necessary terms for her courts. The bill was carried through its various stages and passed.

On motion of Mr. Kenner, the first of the proposed amendments to the State Constitution as noted yesterday, was called up, and the yeas and nays taken on the third reading. It was adopted by twenty-three to six, the nays being Messrs. Brownlee, Cooley, Foute, Kavanagh, Newton of Morehouse, and Purcell.

On motion of the same Senator, the question was put on the next article, title 15. On motion of Mr. Anderson, the phrase "since the 26th of January, 1861," was substituted for the clause referring to the ordinance of secession. Mr. Kavanagh objected to a suspension of the rules to proceed with the measure; but his objection was overruled by twenty-six to two. The article was then adopted by twenty-one to seven, Messrs. Gordon, Kavanagh, Lapeyre, Newton of Morehouse, Poché and Purcell voting against it.

On motion of Mr. Munday, the bill to lease the Opelousas railroad was enlarged. The President added Messrs. Fellowes and Lapeyre.

Mr. Taylor presented a bill relative to the business of the Senate, providing that the Senate would sit on Saturday, and devote that day entirely to bills of a private and local character.

The same Senator presented a resolution relative to the business of the session, providing that neither House should, after Monday next, consider bills not then on the calendar.

Both amendments were then adopted.

Mr. Munday presented a report from the Committee on the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum, with a bill for the management of the institution. Two hundred copies of the report were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Lott presented a bill to appropriate $1200 for levee purposes. Laid on the table subject to call.

A message was received from the House of Representatives through Mr. Halsey, Assistant Clerk. It asked the signature of the President to the bill to authorize the recorder of mortgages for the city of New Orleans to cause mortgages of notaries public in certain cases, and to the act to amend the act relating to the State Seminary of Alexandria. It asked concurrence in a bill instructing our Representatives at Washington to oppose the request of certain members of the bar in a memorial made by them; also in an act to amend the bill to authorize the vending of lottery tickets; also the act in relation to the academic department of the University buildings; also the bill for the relief of indigent soldiers.

Mr. Duvigneaud presented a resolution granting the use of the Senate Chamber and committee rooms to the ladies of the Holy Cross, for the purpose of holding a fair for charitable objects therein, from the 1st of May to the 15th of the same month. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Scruggs presented the annual report of the board of administrators of the Charity Hospital. It was referred to the Committee on Charitable Institutions.

The same Senator presented a bill fixing the compensation of State tax collectors in New Orleans. He said he had been informed by the State Auditor that, at the rate of commission at present proposed to be allowed, at least $20,000 a year would be lost to the State, because the collectors would not collect it. The bill proposed to allow them five per cent. on the amount actually collected. It was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Gordon, from the Committee on Finance, presented a favorable report on the bill limiting the taxing power of municipal corporations. It was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Duvigneaud, the bill to organize the militia of the State, called up by Mr. Brusle, was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Brusle, the bill to provide for the founding of a soldiers' home was taken up, carried through its various stages and passed.

On motion of Mr. Scruggs, the concurrent resolution in reference to quarantine was taken up and adopted, the blank for the number of the committee on the part of the Senate being filled with "three." The committee has full powers to send for persons and papers in the inquiry as to how the usual annual report has not been presented to the legislature.

Mr. Kenner, from the Committee on Finance, presented a favorable report on the bill for the relief of the heirs of Benjamin Ray.

On motion of Mr. Newton, of Morehouse, the bill was at once taken up, carried through its various stages and passed.

Mr. Kenner from the Committee on Finance presented unfavorable reports on the petition of Louis Kaiser; on the bill in relation to the act to increase the revenues of the State and to raise means to pay the interest on the State debt; on the bill to protect the State against illegal claims; and on the act for the relief of Luke Dillon. On the act to authorize the State Auditor and the State Treasurer to employ an additional clerk each, the gentleman presented a favorable report; and on his motion, this bill was immediately taken up, carried through its various stages and passed.

On motion of Mr. Foute, the bill for the relief of the succession of Juan Y. de Egana, was taken up, carried through its various stages and passed.

A communication, inviting the President and Senators to attend the commencement exercises of the School of Medicine, was read and accepted.

On motion of Mr. Mohan, the bill for the relief of Edward F. Lhoste was taken up. On motion of Mr. Duvigneaud, it was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Duvigneaud called up the bill to ratify acts of notaries public and other officers throughout the State.

On motion of Mr. Lott, it was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

On motion of Mr. Munday, the bill for the relief of J. D. Lott, was taken up and passed.

Mr. Munday called up the bill for the relief of Benjamin Bloomfield. Some discussion took place on the merits of the bill, and before a vote was come to, a motion to go into executive session prevailed.

On resuming, a motion to adjourn was carried, and the Senate adjourned to noon to-morrow, Friday, March 16, 1866.

House of Representatives.

The House came to order at 11 A. M., Mr. Elam Speaker *pro tem.*, in the Chair.

Mr. McEnery introduced a joint resolution instructing the Senators and Representatives of the State to the Federal Congress to endeavor to prevent the success of the memorial of certain members of the bar of Louisiana, praying for the abolishment of the district court of Louisiana for the Western District of Louisiana.

Mr. McEnery remarked that the abolishment of the court adverted to could operate greatly to the injury of the people beyond the mouth of Red River. It was very true as stated by the memorialists, that little business had hitherto been done in that court, because nearly all the litigation had been confined to State courts, but in view of the probability of a great increase of business before the Federal tribunals in this state, in consequence of foreign creditors seeking those courts instead of the State courts, there was now the greatest necessity for retaining the western court, because of the great hardship of compelling the people of North Louisiana to travel hundreds of miles to attend a court in New Orleans.

Mr. Tucker was glad this subject had been introduced, and animadverted upon the course of these members of the New Orleans bar, as characterized by great selfishness and utter indifference to the wants and convenience of the people of the western and north-western portions of the State. He hoped the legislature would act promptly in raising its voice against this attempt at oppression. The memorialists had chosen a cheap way of advertising themselves professionally all over the continent.

Mr. Williamson thought the resolution an eminently proper one, and dwelt upon the expense and loss of time the abolition of the court would impose upon litigants in the remote parts of the State. It would naturally compel the people to submit to unjust claims, rather than incur the losses attendant upon appearing before a court in New Orleans. It was the good or bad fortune of the bar that but few of its members could plead before the United States courts in consequence of inability of the bar generally to take, conscientiously, the test oath prescribed by Congress. It was these few who were seeking the abolishment of the western court. But there was a prospect the oath would cease soon to be an impediment to the bar in the Federal courts, and he trusted the resolution would immediately pass to prevent the success of the scheme of these gentlemen.

The resolution passed unanimously and was sent to the Senate.

Mr. Freret introduced a joint resolution relative to the building of a university for the State, which was passed.

Mr. Labranch introduced a resolution prohibiting, during the remainder of the session, members speaking more than once on the same subject and not longer than five minutes, either in the House or in committee of the whole, but allowing the author of a bill or resolution to speak a second time to close the debate.

Mr. Tucker argued the impracticability of the resolution and its injurious influence. The House needed open and full discussion of important measures to secure enlightened and just legislation. Gag laws facilitated the passage of bad laws, and were detrimental to the success of good ones.

Mr. Bailey opposed this new rule. The rules already in existence were sufficient if gentlemen would not be wasting time by constantly moving a suspension of them.

The House refused to suspend the rules to put the resolution on its passage.

Mr. Simonds, from the Judiciary Committee, reported,

On Senate bill authorizing Mrs. E. Prevost, wife of Louis Gongis, to alienate her dotal property, favorably.

On bill more effectually to punish the carrying of concealed weapons, unfavorably.

On bill for relief of Mrs. Duflilo, favorably.

On bill authorizing Mrs. L. Gande, wife of Paul U. Bourgeois, to dispose of her interest in a certain tract of land, unfavorably.

On bill authorizing planters and farmers to furnish their freedmen and other employés with articles of merchandize, without incurring the penalties of retail merchants, favorably by substitute.

Mr. Walker, in behalf of the special committee authorized to receive the papers of the late surveyor general, reported a bill to pay Mr. C. P. Bringier, son of the late surveyor, rent for premises in which the papers were safely kept during the war.

Mr. Walker, from the Finance Committee, reported favorably the bill to establish and maintain the State University.

Mr. DeLabarre introduced a bill for the relief of parties who have paid or owe taxes to the New Orleans Draining Company. Referred to a special committee of nine of the New Orleans delegation, viz: Messrs. DeLabarre, Deblanc, Wilkes, Gottschalk, Freret, Fulda, Voorhies, Bailey and Phillips.

Mr. Scanlan introduced a bill to provide for the collection of State taxes and licenses in the city of New Orleans. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Halsey introduced a bill requiring the State Engineer to examine the condition of levees on the Atchafalaya, and report to the board of levee commissioners the cost of repairing the same. Referred to Committee on Public Works, Lands and Levees.

Mr. McEnery introduced a bill granting certain privileges to the Ouachita Backwater Navigation Company. Referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Nutt introduced a bill supplementary to the law licensing the sale of lottery tickets. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Duralde introduced a bill to provide for the payment of interest on the bonds of the State. Referred to Finance Committee.

Mr. Williamson introduced the subjoined resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures:

WHEREAS, Every State in the Mississippi Valley is greatly interested in deepening and keeping open to a sufficient depth the passes at the mouth of the Mississippi, and whereas the city of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana have an especial interest in the speedy accomplishment of such work; therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That our Senators and Representatives elect to the United States Congress be and are hereby requested to invite the Senators and Representatives of Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and other States to co-operate with them in urging upon the Congress of the United States the immense importance to the commerce of the United States, and especially to the States of the Mississippi Valley of adapting some practicable plan of deepening and keeping deepened the passes of the Mississippi river.

Resolved 2d, That the Governor of the State is requested to open a correspondence with the Governors of the States mentioned in the foregoing first resolution, and such others, as in his judgment he may see fit, for the purpose of securing their influence for the object therein stated.

Resolved 3d, That a special joint committee of two members of the House and — members of the Senate be appointed to communicate with the Chambers of Commerce of the cities of Memphis, Louisville, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburg, Chicago and St. Paul, upon the most practicable plan of deepening the mouths of the Mississippi river and preserving a depth of eighteen feet or more, and to enlist their influence to obtain the approval of the United States Congress to any plan that may be adopted, or to obtain from Congress sufficient annual appropriation to deepen and maintain the depth of said passes as above stated.

A message was received from the Governor announcing his approval of the following bills, viz:

1. To extend the limits of the corporation of Donaldsonville.

2. Joint resolution relative to tax on gross sales and receipts.

3. Granting to M. McDavitt, of St. Landry, and L. M. Corell, of Point Coupee, the right of keeping a ferry across the Atchafalaya river, at Centreport, near the mouth of Bayou Rouge.

The House then went with committee of the whole, Mr. Fenner in the Chair, and resumed the consideration of the stamp tax bill. The committee made several additional amendments, and reported the bill back to the House as amended.

Mr. Stille moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. McConnell would withdraw opposition to the bill if the tax upon sales of real estate was reduced from one-half to one-fifth of one per cent.

Mr. Eldridge moved to fix the tax at one-fourth of one per cent.

Mr. McConnell moved to fix it at one-fifth. To show how onerous this tax was, a few stores sold lately paid a tax of one-half per cent., amounting to $500, and had this bill under consideration been a law $500 more would have been paid.

Mr. Walker said the very case referred to was one illustrating the propriety of the proposed tax. Stewart, the great New York dry goods merchant, had purchased a number of stores at the corner of Camp and Canal streets, as a site, not for stores, but for a dry goods palace, intending to monopolize the silk business of the Southwest. He paid for the property $105,000, and surely upon such a transaction, among people of wealth, it was not too much for the State to receive $500.

Some further argument took place between Messrs. Walker and McConnell, which the latter closed by withdrawing his motion, and moving to fix the tax at one-tenth of one per cent.

The amendment was rejected—yeas, 32; nays, 44.

Mr. Eldridge's proposition for one-fourth of one per cent. was then put, and the vote being a tie—9 against 39—the amendment was adopted by the casting vote of the Chair.

Mr. Walker moved a reconsideration.

The Chair held that Mr. Walker could not make the motion, as he had voted with the minority.

Mr. Blackman, having voted with the majority, moved a reconsideration.

The reconsideration was refused—yeas, 37; nays, 41.

An amendment proposed by Mr. Jonas, to diminish the taxes on probate proceedings, was rejected.

An amendment offered by Mr. Anderson, of Madison, to allow a compensation of one per cent. to the State Auditor and State Treasurer upon the issues of stamps, was lost by the casting vote of the Chair.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed as amended, by a vote of 46 to 29.

Mr. Walker moved a reconsideration of the vote.

On motion of Mr. McEnery, the motion was laid on the table.

Mr. Sambola having presented his reasons, in writing, for voting against the bill, substantially, that it was a measure to impose oppressive burdens upon business, more particularly in New Orleans, and that it surrounded transactions with difficulties calculated to embarrass business and produce litigation, asked to have his reasons spread on the minutes, and it was so ordered.

Mr. Williamson also had his reasons for voting in the negative recorded, that the tax was oppressive and unequal.

The rules were then suspended for a third reading of the bill, and the yeas and nays were called.

Mr. Tucker said he should vote in the negative, because there were objectionable features in the bill, which he had endeavored to have removed, but failed.

The vote upon the third reading standing 37 to 17, less than a quorum, the House adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The House came to order at 7 o'clock, the Speaker *pro tem.* in the Chair.

The consideration of the stamp tax bill was resumed, the pending question being upon the passage of the bill on its third reading, when the House, for want of a quorum, adjourned this morning.

The bill passed, finally. As passed, the tax system provided by it goes into operation on the first of May next. It is too lengthy to give a satisfactory synopsis, within the space allowed to these reports. Its general scope, however, can be understood from the fact that, substantially, it is a reproduction of the United States stamp act.

The House next took up the first bill on the preferred calendar, the Senate bill for the establishment of an internal improvement district, and went into committee of the whole, Mr. Tucker in the Chair.

The bill constitutes the parishes of Carroll, Madison, Tensas, Concordia, Point Coupee, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, and the alluvial portion of the parishes of Catahoula, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Avoyelles, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Lafayette and East Baton Rouge, an improvement district, provides for the election of a board of levee commissioners, and authorizes that board to impose taxes for the construction of levees.

Mr. Bailey moved to amend by excluding from the bill that portion of the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans, embraced in the first, second and third improvement districts, for which, he said, an improvement system had already been established under a law of the State, and a tax had been imposed to execute the improvements designed.

Mr. McCloskey said there was no necessity for the organization proposed by this bill. It was a sort of State government of itself, with a crowd of expensive offices. The taxes would be consumed by the officers. Why create this organization when already a board of levee commissioners, with ample powers, was established and would continue until the next session? In addition to the contribution of New Orleans to the improvements under that board of levee commissioners, it was now proposed to impose another levee tax. This was monstrous, and he did not see how an honest man could support such a scheme.

Mr. Halsey reminded the House that a message, almost identical with this, was discussed at the extra session very thoroughly, and a proposition there failed to exclude New Orleans. He thought the whole city should be embraced.

Mr. Scanlan said the odious features of this bill were pointed out at the extra session, although at that time the board of levee commissioners had not been authorized, as they are now, to expend a million and a half dollars to repair all the damages to the levees during the war. The tax of the bill now before the committee was upon the wealthiest parishes of the State, and would yield three or four hundred thousand dollars. There was no necessity for this measure. Levee commissioners were at work, and they had all necessary powers. The general government was also assisting.

Mr. McConnell was a friend of the measure. He would subscribe to any measure for the building of levees that would impose a fair tax on New Orleans. But this measure was badly digested. The Constitution of 1864 must be complied with. It provides that the legislature shall establish internal improvement districts, but gives the people of each district the exclusive power of taxation, and this bill takes it from them. Why? Because with the diminished value of plantation property the tax on rural properties would be very light, but in consequence of the comparatively high value of property in New Orleans, the great burden of taxation would fall upon the city, and the people of the city would vote against the tax. The bill gave the commissioners the right of imposing taxes, which was clearly unconstitutional and such an attempt to assess a tax would be legally resisted, the scheme would prove abortive—an entire failure. As a friend of these improvements he admonished gentlemen to give the bill a constitutional form, and not seek unjust impositions on the city. This is not a local matter. It is the riparian proprietors should be required to build their levees. But it was a matter of State, of national importance and interest, and the whole State should bear the burden. Let additional means be given to the board of levee commissioners, if necessary. An attempt to throw the burden upon the city would and should fail. His idea was the committee should rise and report the bill back to be referred to a special committee to report to-morrow.

Mr. Jonas was also a friend of these levee improvements, to restore the alluvial lands to their original productiveness. He had been disappointed by the friends of the measure, to whom its unconstitutional and unjust features were pointed out at the extra session. They had had ample time to correct the defects of the bill, but had failed to do so. The whole State should contribute to the work, for the man in the hills was interested as well as the man in the alluvial lands, as the levee improvements enhanced the value of the lands of both. This bill would afford no relief. An unconstitutional tax could not be collected, for the courts would be sought for redress from the grievances. Not a dollar would be raised under this bill until every judicial remedy was exhausted. The great interests involved should not be endangered by such a questionable experiment. Mr. J. therefore agreed with Mr. McConnell, that the most judicious course would be to give the measure to a special committee to digest and shape it constitutionally and equitably.

The amendment of Mr. Bailey was rejected, 31 yeas to 42 nays.

Mr. McConnell, with a view of giving the bill to a special committee, moved that the committee rise.

The motion was negatived, 39 yeas, 45 nays.

Mr. Harrison moved to so amend that the alluvial lands, which would be protected by levees, in the parishes constituting the district, should only be embraced in the provisions of the bill.

Mr. McCloskey regretted to see a sectional line plainly drawn in this matter to oppress New Orleans. This was an odious measure, nothing but a scheme to give fat offices to thirty-three people. The taxation realized after their salaries were paid would not afford a dollar to build levees.

Mr. Scanlan had been here for three days voting against his colleagues from the city, because he thought in supporting the stamp act he was doing that which the necessities of the State required. The bill now before the committee was clearly unconstitutional, and he called upon all members in the House who did not wish to be parties to a violation of the sanctity of an oath, to take their hats and leave. Mr. S. left the hall upon concluding his remarks.

Mr. McEnery regretted the spirit being shown here to night by the city delegation. There should be no sectional feeling. There should be no city, no country, but the good of all in view. None were more deeply interested in the general welfare and security of the country than New Orleans. The spirit manifested was pitiful and unparliamentary, and he trusted gentlemen from the city would exhibit a more dignified and conciliatory disposition than propositions to break a quorum.

The question being put on Mr. Harrison's amendment, it was discovered that the number present was less than quorum.

On motion of Mr. Elam, the committee rose and the chairman reported no quorum.

Motion was made that the House adjourn.

Mr. Tucker addressed the House advising calmness and moderation, and moved that the sergeant-at-arms be instructed to go after absentees. He trusted the harmony which had characterized their proceedings throughout the session would not now be interrupted.

On motion of Mr. Snider, a call of the House was ordered, and a quorum answered.

Mr. Snider moved that the rule requiring this, as a tax bill, to be considered in committee of the whole, be suspended, and there being no objection, the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole was received and adopted.

Mr. McConnel moved a reference of the bill to a select committee, with instructions to report a substitute based upon the idea of continuing the present board of levee commissioners, and granting them additional means for leveeage.

Mr. Halsey strongly objected to the proposition. The present levee commissioners were appointed without authority, and the popular wish was that the Constitution should be complied with, and the people allowed to elect their improvement commissioners themselves.

Mr. Fenner moved the reference of the bill to the Judiciary Committee, and argued that the spirit manifested by the majority, in failing to answer the strong arguments urged against the unconstitutionality and injustice of the bill, and showing a predetermination and an organized majority to overrule reasonable objections, justified, if anything would justify the city delegation, in leaving the hall. If the Judiciary Committee reported the bill constitutional, he would pledge himself to support it.

Mr. Elam, Mr. Stille in the Chair, contended that there was nothing in the conduct of the majority that was improper, or that would justify the breaking of a quorum. They had no reason to complain that any minority might not have. The only cause for dissatisfaction was the simple fact that they were in a minority. He pledged himself to city gentlemen that if they persisted in the spirit manifested this evening, this bill should remain before the House until the day of adjournment, and let the failure of the important measures yet enacted upon rest upon gentlemen from the city. Gentlemen talked of unconstitutionality! They say it is unconstitutional for the legislature or commissioners to levy an improvement tax, yet they demand that the whole State shall be taxed by legislative act! This measure had been amply discussed, and the mind of every member was made up. There was no need of a reference.

Mr. Tucker deprecated resort to unparliamentary steps on the part of a minority, whose only excuse was that they were crowded by a compact majority. But he was fully impressed with the force of the constitutional objections to this measure, and it could not, therefore, in its present form, receive his support. It was not constitutional either under the Constitution of 1852, or that so called of 1864. He hoped gentlemen would not depend upon mere numbers to carry a bill against which so grave an objection existed, and force it through in defiance of reason. As had been already urged, the bill would prove a failure unless freed from this constitutional objection, for the courts would be appealed to by tax payers. Another objection was, that the people of New Orleans were no more bound to build those levees than the people of any other part of the State. But the paramount objection was unconstitutionality, and that should be removed.

Mr. Williamson did not see why the people of New Orleans should be forced into an internal improvement scheme against the unanimous protest of her representatives. The bill conferred upon four commissioners extraordinary powers, and in view of its unconstitutionality also, he could not support that measure unless some good reasons were given in answer to the arguments against the bill.

Mr. McConnell addressed some conciliatory remarks to the House, and to show the burdens already upon the city, stated that the taxation gathered in New Orleans for drainage was equal to the whole amount appropriated for the construction of levees. Gentlemen from the uplands were very anxious the levees should be built, and voted solidly with gentlemen from the alluvial parishes; but when it came to the question of paying for the levees, the upland gentlemen, who were resolutely bent upon making New Orleans pay, were equally resolute that their constituents should not contribute a dollar. There had been nothing factious in the course of the New Orleans delegation in asking that the bill be given to a special committee. He appealed to gentlemen from the alluvial districts to assist in having the bill committed. One could be drawn up to tax the whole State. He did not expect the gentleman from DeSoto, Mr. Elam, would support a measure that would tax his constituents, but as a fair measure it would secure a passage.

Mr. Waggaman believed the gentleman from Orleans sincerely desired to frame a good bill. Mr. W. thought this an unfair bill to the city of New Orleans. The advantages were entirely of a surface character. The tax the same everywhere. The purchasers of alluvial lands bought with the knowledge that they were subject to overflow, and they had no right to demand assistance from New Orleans more than any other part of the State. The city had as good right to call upon the country to aid her urban improvements.

Mr. Walker considered the objection from the city member apparent, not real. Every planter had his own drainage but that did not exempt him from his levee taxes. She was subject to overflow as were all the alluvial lands, and should share with other riparian proprietors in the burdens resulting from her geographical situation. Mr. W. did not give faith to the opinion that the people of New Orleans would object to a tax to secure the immense tract of productive lands which contributed so greatly to her prosperity. He attached little consequence to the constitutional objection. An agent could act for his principal, and the internal improvement bond, as the agents of the people of the district could constitutionally impose the necessary tax.

Mr. Eldridge, in reply to Mr. McConnell, denied that the country representatives were influenced by unworthy motives. For his own part he had some little patriotism, some little love for his adopted State, some principle, and he was conscientiously convinced it was unfair to tax the uplands for levees from which they derived no benefit. The parish of De Soto had alluvial lands, which would derive no benefit from this law, and it was unjust to call upon his constituents to contribute to that from which they received no benefit.

Mr. McConnell disclaimed any imputation of unworthy motives to gentlemen. He did not intend his arguments should have any bearing personally offensive.

Mr. Fenner withdrew his motion to refer the bill to the Judiciary Committee, and advocated the motion of Mr. McConnell, with some modifications, to refer to a special committee.

Mr. Elam opposed the motion. He feared if the bill was committed at this late day it would be lost.

Mr. Anderson, of Madison, also opposed the commitment of the bill.

Mr. McCloskey, although opposed to the bill, was in favor of a judicious and liberal system of levee improvements.

Mr. Williamson admitted, in reply to Mr. Walker's argument, that New Orleans was interested in the prosperity of all parts of the State, but that did not justify forcing upon her measures for the local improvement of every locality that contributed to her commercial prosperity. Having, by taxing herself, secured herself against inundation, she should not be coerced into an improvement district.

Mr. Simonds admired the liberal spirit of Mr. McCloskey and other city gentlemen in expressing a willingness to contribute liberally to the protection of alluvial lands, and thought it became gentlemen from the uplands to exhibit an equally liberal spirit. Admitting even that New Orleans was liable to overflow, to which she was not, because, at her own expense, she had secured herself, the effects of inundation in New Orleans were not near so disastrous as in the country, where the loss of at least one whole crop was the result. In this view, taxation should not be the same. The uplands had an indirect interest, as had New Orleans, in these improvements, and should be taxed for them as well as New Orleans.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. McEnery, McConnell, Walker and Fenner.

At half-past ten the House adjourned without coming to a vote.

Local Intelligence.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA.—The commencement exercises of this institution took place yesterday in the College building, on Common street.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon the following gentlemen:

Solomon C. Martin, Miss.; Martin A. Baldwin, Ga.; Isaac L. Van Zandt, Tex.; John B. Drake, Orange H. Spence, Miss.; Jos. H. McCormick, La.; Elias A. Rowan, Andrew P. Harris, Miss.; Fred. V. Hopkins, La.; Jas. T. Alford, Miss.; Wm. R. Romer, Ala.; Saml. Walker, Ga.; F. D. Mabry, D. S. McInnis, Miss.; Chas. C. Baker, Tex.; John S. Compton, La.; Chas. H. Lea, Robt. J. Durr, Miss.; S. L. Henry, Va.; E. P. Thens, La.; Francis W. Coleman, Miss.; Wm. G. Westmore, La.; Thos. Y. Aby, La.; Thos. H. Wickliffe, Ky.; C. C. Walker, Texas; Sidney M. Abbay, Miss.; Frank McLean, Miss.; Chas. A. Kennon, La.; Penn Crain, La.; Jule Foot, La.; Charles Whelan, Ala.; John E. Hardy, Miss; Chas. H. Franklin, Ala.; Rufus A. Watkins, Texas; Eliab Fox, Miss.

The farewell address was delivered by Dr. Warren Stone, and was replete with the most useful parting instructions to his young friends and now professional brethren.

The gentleman selected to deliver the valedictory was Dr. Thos. Y. Aby. His effort was eloquent and elegant, distinguished for its sentiment and good taste, and was received by the distinguished audience with frequent marks of great approbation.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—At an adjourned annual meeting of the New Orleans Academy of Sciences, held Monday evening, March 12th, 1866, the following officers were elected to serve for one year:

President, Dr. J. S. Copes; Vice Presidents, Prof. Vallas and Rufus Waples; Registrar, Dr. James Burns; Corresponding Secretary, Rev. A. P. Hoppe; Recording Secretary, Dr. S. S. Riddell; Treasurer, J. K. Bailey, Esq.; Librarian, Dr. Schmidt; Curators, Dr. J. S. Knapp and Charles Lavender.

The New Orleans Academy of Sciences has been in existence thirteen years, having been founded in April, 1853. Its former endeavors have always been the advancement of science and the general diffusion of useful knowledge. Until the war, the success of the fellows of the Academy was very satisfactory.

The prospects for the development of the resources of this State through scientific research, are very flattering, if the present State government favors (as it is supposed it will) the Academy sufficiently.

At the above mentioned thirteenth annual meeting, several gentlemen, distinguished for their scientific attainments or knowledge, were elected fellows of the Academy, and the names of several others equally distinguished were placed before it for consideration.

INQUESTS.—Coroner Yeiser yesterday held an inquest on the body of Richard Bell, a native of England, aged about thirty years, found dead in the river at the foot of Erato street. As no marks were found on the body to show that foul play had taken place, a verdict of death by accidental drowning was rendered.

An inquest was also held on the body of Henry Bero, aged fifty-six years, a native of New Orleans, found dead in a house in St. Claude street. Evidence showed that the unfortunate man died from the sad effects of intemperance.

SHOOTING AFFAIR—*Probable Murder.*—O. P. Robinson was arrested, about half-past 6 o'clock last evening, by Sergeant Graham, of the First District police, on a charge of shooting Edward Stratton, with intent to murder.

The circumstances of the affair, so far as we can learn them, are as follows: About dusk Stratton was seen talking very earnestly to a colored woman, at the corner of Carondelet and Girod streets, just by the drug store of the late Dr. Booth. In a minute or two he was seen slapping her face. She stooped, apparently as if looking to pick up something to strike him with. Stratton then commenced beating her in a violent manner, and she resisted, of course, and both fought each other, if we may say so, the woman defending herself and the man showing an inclination to use her in the roughest manner.

While this was going on, Robinson, who keeps the grocery store just opposite the drug store, was seen coming out of his store, walking across the street in an unexcited manner, his hands in his pockets, approaching Stratton, (who by that time had driven the woman up to the window of the drug store,) and deliberately shot him in the back. Robinson then walked quietly back to his store, and remained there until Sergt. Graham arrested him. The wounded man was removed to the Charity Hospital. That there was some bad feeling between the men prior to the shooting, there appears to be little doubt, but what the nature of it was we have not ascertained, though it may be readily surmised. Robinson is a man between fifty and sixty years of age. Stratton is a young man of gay appearance.

FIRE.—The fire last evening occurred at No. 79 Foucher street. The dwelling house, set on fire by sparks from a chimney, and which was destroyed, was owned by Madam Larouche, and occupied by Mrs. O'Connor. The damage, we have no doubt, is very considerable to the sufferers by the fire, as we understand there was no insurance.

SUDDEN DEATH.—A man, whose name was ascertained to be G. B. Clarke, yesterday fell dead on Canal street. The deceased was removed to his residence, No. 57 Derbigny street. The cause of his death will be ascertained by post mortem examination, which will take place this morning.

FATALLY INJURED.—A man named Franklin Beck, who was recently received at the Charity Hospital, having been wounded on Red River by some one unknown, died from the effect of the injury. A verdict, so far as the circumstances at present ascertained in regard to the affair, was rendered.

COTTON FRAUDS.—We understand that the military authorities have arrested several parties, charged with committing frauds in connection with the seizure of cotton on account of the government. More precise particulars in regard to these transactions may be given to-day.

CRIMINAL COURT—*Judge Abell*—James Finnegan pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny, and was remanded to await sentence.

Charles Nickey, alias McCay, pleaded guilty of carrying a concealed weapon, and sentenced to one day's imprisonment.

Paul Nelsonand Edward Dewees were arraigned on a charge of assault and battery, pleaded not guilty, and were sent to prison to await trial.

John Burns was tried and found guilty of assault and battery.

Robert Boyd, charged with an attempt to commit a felony, was discharged from custody.

C. Morgan, accused of larceny, was discharged by nol. pros.

Mathilda Hogan was also discharged from custody.

An Incident of Wilson's Raid.

[From the Memphis Avalanche.]

We like any thing noble, and especially when exhibited by an enemy; and therefore take pleasure in publishing the following incident which occurred during Wilson's raid.

On Wednesday after the fall of Selma, some young ladies of the Female College in Summerfield, informed the President that one of the Female teachers was running rapidly before a Federal soldier. He immediately went to the "front" and met Miss S. in great terror. The soldier had demanded her watch, which was secreted in the college, and under a threat of violence to her person, she had promised to give it to him. The Doctor said to her "you must not let him have the watch, he is a scoundrel and shall not hot have it." She said, "Oh! Doctor, if you knew how he had threatened me you would not blame me. I promised it to him and he must have it." So saying, and eluding the attempt of the Doctor to take it from her, she ran and delivered it to the soldier robber. Then such a volley of indignant abuse as hardly ever fell from the lips of a minister was poured forth on the ruffian. He called him scoundrel, thief, robber, brute, villian, and ordered him to begone. The villian pointed his gun and threatend to shoot. This did not intimidate the preacher, who was a cripple and unarmed, and in ungovernable rage he continued to use the only weapon he had—his tongue—until the robber beat a retreat, his ears tingling with the words of impotent wrath which indicated that the blood of the indignant Southerner had been raised to fever heat. All this occurred in the presence of the school; the minister's wife fainted and was removed insensible to her room.

The robbery, the threat of violating the person of a noble Southern woman, and the threat, also, to kill the gentleman at the head of the school, were all reported to headquarters. Captain McBarney, of General Wilson's staff, took interest in the matter, had the same column pass before the school, and the man was identified and arrested, and the watch was returned. But this was not all. The Captain obtained from General Wilson protection papers for the college, and kept it guarded whenever possible. He went still further, and called for Miss —, and said to her: "I have a present for you." He then handed her an elegant six shooter, and said: Take this, and if any officer of our army steps his foot across the threshold of this college, with evil intent, shoot him. No one can conceive the effect of this noble conduct on the part of the gallant Captain. The feeling of insecurity which had taken hold of the inmates of the college was dissipated, and many an earnest prayer went up from warm Southern hearts for the safety of Captain McBarney. Very different was the conduct of Colonel Noble, who, upon the case being represented to him, simply and carelessly said: "Your soldiers did as bad at Chambersburg."

Now, if Captain McBarney, of the 1st Ohio Volunteers, should ever see this, let him feel that gratitude warm and deep filled every heart in Cemetery College, and that his chivalrous gallantry made an impression upon free Southern hearts which time will never efface.

Big Brindle.

In Nashville, many years ago, there resided a gentleman of great hospitality, large fortune, and though uneducated, possessed of a hard, knotty sense. Colonel W. had been elected to the legislature, and had been also judge of the county court.

His elevation, however, had made him somewhat pompous, and he became very fond of using big words. On his farm he had a very large and mischievous ox, called "Big Brindle," which frequently broke down his neighbors' fences, and committed other depredations, much to the colonel's annoyance.

One morning after breakfast, in presence of some gentlemen who had stayed with him over night, and who were now on their way to town, he called to his overseer, and said to him:

"Mr. Allen, I desire you to impound Big Brindle, in order that I may hear no more animadversions on his eternal depredations."

Allen bowed and walked off, sorely puzzled to know what the colonel meant. So, after the colonel left for town, he went to his wife and asked her what Colonel W. meant by telling him to impound the ox.

"Why," said she, "the colonel meant to tell you to put him in a pen."

Allen left to perform the feat, for it was an inconsiderable one, as the animal was very wild and vicious, and after a great deal of trouble and vexation, he succeeded.

"Well," said he, wiping the perspiration from his brow, and soliloquizing, "this is impounding, is it! Now, I am dead sure the colonel will ask if I impounded Big Brindle, and I bet I'll puzzle him as bad as he did me."

The next day the colonel gave a dinner party, and as he was not aristocratic, Allen, the overseer, sat down with the company. After the second or third glass was discussed, the colonel turned toward the overseer, and said:

"Eh, Mr. Allen, did you impound Big Brindle, sir?"

"Yes, I did, sir, but old Brindle transcended the impound of the impound, and scatterlophisticated all over the equanimity of the forest."

The company burst into an immoderate fit of laughter; while the colonel's face reddened with discomfiture.

"What do you mean by that, sir?" said he.

"Why, I mean, Colonel," said Allen, "that Big Brindle being prognosticated with the idea of the cholera, ripped and tared, snorted and pawed dirt, jumped the fence, took to the woods, and would not be impounded nohow."

This was too much. The company roared again, in which the colonel was forced to join, and in the midst of the laughter, Allen left the table,