New Orleans Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
—OF—
THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

J. O. NIXON, Editor and Proprietor.

OFFICE, No. 94 CAMP STREET.

THE DAILY CRESCENT

Is published every morning—Sundays excepted. Yearly subscription, in advance, $16; Half yearly, $8; Quarterly, $4. Single copies, 10 cents.

Rates of Advertising:

Squares.	1 month.	2 mos.	3 mos.	6 mos.	12 mos.
One	$12 net.	$22 net.	$30 net.	$50 net.	$75 net.
Two	22 "	38 "	50 "	80 "	125 "
Three	30 "	53 "	70 "	110 "	175 "
Four	36 "	67 "	90 "	140 "	225 "
Five	40 "	80 "	105 "	170 "	275 "
Six	54 "	99 "	120 "	200 "	325 "
Seven	60 "	105 "	135 "	230 "	375 "
Eight	65 "	115 "	150 "	260 "	420 "
Nine	70 "	125 "	165 "	290 "	460 "
Ten	75 "	135 "	180 "	320 "	500 "
Eleven	80 "	145 "	195 "	350 "	540 "
Twelve	85 "	155 "	210 "	380 "	580 "
Thirteen	90 "	165 "	225 "	410 "	625 "
Fourteen	95 "	175 "	240 "	440 "	650 "
Fifteen	100 "	185 "	255 "	470 "	700 "
Thirty	175 "	330 "	450 "	700 "	1,200 "

Monthly advertisements, inserted every other day, to be charged two-thirds the above rates.

First and Fourth page monthly advertisements, each square, $30 per month.

Transient advertisements having the run of the paper, first insertion, $1 50 per square; each subsequent insertion, 75 cents per square.

First and Fourth page transient advertisements, each insertion, $1 50 per square.

Advertisements inserted at intervals, to be charged as new each insertion.

Regular advertisers, who advertise largely, shall be allowed such discount from above named transient rates as may be agreed upon; provided, that in no case shall such discount exceed 25 per cent.

All business notices of advertisements to be charged 20 cents net per line, each insertion.

All transient advertisements must be paid for in advance.

All bills with regular advertisers shall be rendered monthly.

THE WEEKLY CRESCENT

is published every Saturday morning. Subscription, $5 per annum, in advance; half yearly and quarterly, same rates; Single copies, 10 cents.

Rates of Advertising:

Squares.	1 month.	2 months.	3 months.	6 months.	12 months.
One	$5 net.	$9 net.	$12 net.	$20 net.	$30 net.
Two	9 "	16 "	21 "	32 "	50 "
Three	12 "	22 "	28 "	44 "	70 "
Four	15 "	27 "	35 "	50 "	90 "
Five	18 "	32 "	42 "	63 "	110 "
Ten	30 "	55 "	75 "	120 "	200 "
Fifteen	40 "	75 "	100 "	150 "	250 "
Thirty	75 "	130 "	180 "	300 "	480 "

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1866.

OUR JOB OFFICE is now the most complete and extensive establishment of the kind in the city. The type, presses, material and entire fixtures are new, having just been received from the foundries and machine shops of Conner & Sons, G.P. Gordon and R. Hoe & Co., of New York, and in variety and beauty cannot be excelled in the South. We have connected with this department one of the best ruling machines ever brought South, and can turn out all descriptions of job work, ruled, lettered and bound, at the shortest notice, in the most workman-like manner and upon most reasonable terms.

In addition to a corps of experienced printers, we have secured the services in this department of Mr. W. W. Brisbin and Mr. Charles W. Clark, so avorably known as job printers previous to the war, under the firm of Clark & Brisbin. Their friends and ours will bear this in mind and send in their orders.

LIFE INSURANCE.—A merchant who is trading upon a small cash capital, and who necessarily incurs debts from time to time, the amount of which is larger than his capital, seldom fails to take out a policy of insurance upon his stock, because he does not consider that it would be fair treatment to his creditors should he, for the small consideration of the premium he would have to pay upon the policy, risk the loss of the goods by accident, which would place it out of his power to pay his debts. The majority of merchants think that the man who is in debt and does not insure, is criminally careless about the interests of those to whom he is in debt, and we believe that they are right. If to insure one's goods is a custom founded upon the principles of honesty and economy, why not this same rule apply to the insurance of life? And is it not often just as important to the creditor that such a precaution should be adopted as the other? We think so.

But aside from looking at the matter in a business point of view, how many men are there whose families are entirely dependent upon their earnings, and whose death would plunge all they love and work for, into poverty and misery. Such men are in the places of debtors. They owe it to their loved ones to neglect no means to place them beyond the chance of an accident which would leave them undone. Why do they not insure their lives for such a sum as would place their families above want—which would educate their children? We hope that our readers will think over the matter and come to a speedy conclusion about it. The great Southern Accident and Life Insurance Company, of which Gen. Longstreet is president, issues policies on lives for any sum, and for periods extending from one day to twelve months. The amount charged for these is within the means of any man to pay who tries. A few suppers at the lake the less, or a month's abstinence from some favorite beverage, would do the business.

The immense business done by Messrs. Kreeger & Seligman is owing altogether to the cheapness of their goods. They sell a bolt of fine white Irish linen, warranted pure flax and containing 24 yards, for $10, $11 and $12 a piece; a dozen fine cambric handkerchiefs for $2 50 and $2 75 per dozen; a roll of linen lawn for $5; 4-4 white cotton at 20 cents per yard; French corsets, genuine Wherly shape, with whalebone, for $1 75. Don't fail to ride up to their handsome store, 607 Magazine street, one block above the market, near Josephine street, marble front, opposite the St. Elizabeth Asylum.

A SPLENDID STOCK OF GOODS.—We invite the attention of country and city buyers to the advertisement of Messrs. S. Witkowski & Co., wholesale dealers in staple and fancy dry goods, boots and shoes, No. 97 Magazine street, which appears in another column this morning. The goods they offer have only just been opened, and, consequently, fresh, and of the latest styles. As they were bought since the fall in the dry goods market, they were bought cheap and can be sold cheap, and a more beautiful and well selected, or more comprehensive stock, is not in the city. Buyers will find it to their advantage to give them a call.

CHOICE PROVISIONS.—The stock of provisions catalogued in an advertisement of Messrs. Martin, Dufilho & Cobb, 37 Natchez street, is well worth the attention of buyers, as it comprises all the staples in that line, and they are fresh and merchantable in every respect. Country and city dealers should call and examine them.

FOR PENSACOLA.—Parties having freight to ship either to the above port or to Milton, would do well to remember that the staunch and fast steamship Hattie will leave for there on Saturday morning next at 8 o'clock. She lies at Post 16, First District, and Mr. L. M. Merritt, No. 47 Carondelet street, is her agent.

BULLY FOR BEECHER.—The following from a recent address by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, makes extremely distastful reading for some of his political associates:

I should be sorry to see any more government agents spreading out through the land. If the President would call home every treasury agent that is disgracing the North and the government, and humanity, and alienating the South, I, for one, should be glad. There are no doubt men who stand above bribery and suspicion of corruption—noble men and true—but all through the South, take them comprehensively, they are as locusts eating up the land. They are predatory nuisances, and degrade the North, from which they come, and the government under which they serve.

[Special Correspondence of the New Orleans Crescent.]

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1866.

LOUISIANIANS IN THE CAPITAL.

Mayor Monroe and Col. J. O. Nixon arrived here on Monday morning. The day succeeding their presence in Washington, they had an interview with the President. The mayor elect has obtained several audiences with Mr. Johnson, and Col. Nixon has remained over to-day at the special request of the executive. Both pardons have already been applied for, and are now in the hands of the attorney general. The legal points of these cases are under the supervision of Messrs. Sharkey and Taylor, one of the most distinguished law firms of this city. Col. Nixon leaves for New York this evening, where he will remain a few days, previous to his departure for New Orleans. Our fellow-townsman, Tom Parker, is still in Washington, and there seems to be little doubt that the industrious machinations of his opponents will be thoroughly defeated. Senator Hunt intends to leave for Louisiana in the latter part of the present week. With this last departure our State will cease to be officially represented in the city of Washington.

REPORT OF THE RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

The official policy of the radicals has not yet been announced from the central directory, but the result of their voluminous testimony is pretty well known to be contained in the following bases of restoration: The first principle is to exclude their political enemies from every office of trust and profit. In pursuance of this plan, a long list of projected exclusions has been devised with accurate precision. All officers above the rank of colonel in the army and of master in the navy, all the important civil officials of the Confederacy; and many others, are to be forever ineligible to any political station. The South is to be restored, in appearance, to her representative rights, on condition of electing to high positions the men whom her opponents may choose. It is the symbol of a right without its substance—representation without the possibility of being represented. But this policy is not sufficient without a word for the negro. The South must not only elect those officers whose choice is dictated to them, but must also accept the direction of Congress as to the electors of these unrepresentative men. Some system of negro suffrage must be promised by the South, and must be put in execution before the year 1870.

Months of delay, volumes of testimony, torrents of speeches, are to result in this unfair and puerile device for reconstruction on radical principles. Some persons affect to regard this proposal as a modification of the original designs. It is doubtless a change of plan, and one cunningly suited to the emergencies of the times. The exclusion of disloyal men, as they are pleased to denominate all respectable Southerners, will be a famous battle-cry for the next canvass. It is much better than "guarantees from the rebel States;" it has a more practical sound. It smacks of Thad. Stevens' homely sharpness. Sumner and the other firebeaters are in the last stage of indignation, but as the Honorable Charles has declared that the present Congress is the ablest that ever assembled in Washington, he cannot complain of its most important proceedings. The committee was incubating for a long time on yesterday, and it is hoped that they will be happily delivered of this "muscipular abortion," before the end of the week.

THE NEW INTERNAL REVENUE LAW.

For several months, the special commission authorized by Congress to investigate our tax laws, has been industriously occupied in accumulating and collecting testimony in reference to the efficiency of the present system, and the advisability of effecting various changes in its character. The chairman of the commission, David A. Wells—the author of several standard works on popular science—was an unusually fortunate selection. An adept in his profession, having devoted serious attention to the study of economic science, this gentleman was admirably qualified for a liberal and accurate survey of our financial condition. I mention this fact particularly, in order that the Southern people may not feel that they have been harshly dealt with in the imposition of new taxes.

It is not supposed that the excise duty of five cents per pound will seriously affect the production or result in the slightest injury to the producer. The testimony in relation to the effect of a cotton tax, the free labor system, and the condition of the producing country, was extensive and valuable. The duty on sugar, as reported by the committee, will not, it is thought, interfere with the bulk or character of the crop. Our system of internal revenue absolves nearly all agricultural products from taxation, and proceeds on the recognized principle of political economy, that taxes on manufactures should be imposed in a later stage of the mechanical process. Many defects and even anomalies existed in the old system, as most of our merchants have had occasion to discover. It is hoped that the recommendations of the present commission will furnish remedies for the greater part of these evils incident to the establishment of a new revenue system. Mr. Fessenden's scheme for distributing the circulation of the national banks fairly throughout the country is the great financial stroke now on the tapis. This plan is to be executed without any increase of the three hundred millions of national currency now in circulation. The new banks are in a violent state of perturbation, and threaten to lobby the scheme to death.

WASHINGTONIANA.

Mayor Monroe and Col. Nixon called on the secretary of war to-day, and were cordially received by Mr. Stanton. The middle of June is still supposed to be the probable period of adjournment, but the advent of the cholera will materially shorten the session. The President remarked, in reference to his speech before the negroes, that "it is sometimes better to fight people with their own weapons." The election case of Mr. Delana—one of the great accessions to the conservative ranks—will be discussed very soon, and afford an opportunity to the radicals of re-enacting the Stockton and Brooks farces. A life size statue of the late President Lincoln, by a youth of eighteen summers, is now placed in the center of the rotunda. Murdock is still delighting numerous audiences with his splendid impersonations of the standard drama. KANGAROO.

THE HONORS TO THE DEAD.—The ladies of Columbus yesterday carried out with their usual good taste and patriotic spirit the ceremonies which they had resolved upon as a tribute of respect, gratitude and love to the Confederate dead. Our citizens seemed to participate with very little diversity in the exercises of the occasion, and it was, altogether, a display that manifested the most sympathetic and emphatic deep feeling of affection and admiration with which our people regard the graves in which are buried as well their late political hopes as the beloved objects who fell victims in the conflict for their realization.

The morning ceremonies at the church were most impressive and appropriate. The building was not only crowded to its utmost capacity, but many, unable to obtain seats within, stood outside in the vestibule and near the windows. Hymns appropriate to the occasion were sung most beautifully and impressively by the united choirs of the city. Col. James M. Ramsey, the orator of the day, delivered, in his eloquent and stirring manner, a befitting eulogy of the gallant dead. We could not, from our position, hear the address very distinctly, but what we did hear satisfied us that the gifted orator performed the delicate task committed to him in a most happy and satisfactory manner.

The business houses of the city were closed during these exercises.

In the afternoon the procession of ladies and misses, repairing from the city to the cemetery, presented a very beautiful pageant. At the cemetery the graves of all the soldiers buried there were very handsomely and tastefully decorated with wreaths of evergreen and flowers. All the arrangements at the burial ground bespoke the most assiduous attention and skillful care that had been bestowed upon the graves.

The success attending this first annual tribute to the memory of the soldiers of the South was in every respect gratifying, and gives assurance that the day will long be observed as one of sacred obligation.—[Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer, 27th ult.

IRISH LINEN.—Messrs. Kreeger & Seligman have received five hundred pieces more of those cheap Irish linens, which they sell at $10 a bolt, 24 yards. Don't fail to ride up to 607 Magazine street, and secure a few pieces of them.

The Environs of New Orleans.

NUMBER FORTY-NINE.

The late social convulsion has given such a shock to the whole communal system of our city and country, that it is only after surveying the entire ground that one perceives how far this commotion has actually penetrated into the most minute, and sometimes the most remote interests of the economical order of families and whole classes of industrial people. We have already sufficiently enlarged upon some of the very profitable and lucrative industrial branches carried on in former times in the vicinity of our city, yet we have not, so far, made mention of that very ornamental art or culture—the rearing of flower gardens, or horticulture, which at one time was pushed even to somewhat an extravagant degree in our very midst. Aye, the passion for rare plants and rare flowers, in former years, was something altogether surprising, and we have been told of fabulous prices being given for some peculiarly beautiful specimens of horticulture; such as would be displayed upon some grand occasion, some festival or social reunion, to attract the attention of connoisseurs as well as amateurs of such natural objects. Since the outbreak of the late war, a blight, as it were, has fallen upon the enterprize, and we do not even perceive the former garden wagons, offering flowering plants, shrubberies, or other such productions, to our New Orleans city public. These seem, for the present, as articles of luxury, to have dropped into complete oblivion; and no doubt the former horticulturists have now turned their attention to the more necessary vegetables as cabbages, turnips, beets, lettuce, sorrel, etc., which still continue to be consumed by the public, whilst flowers and bouquets are comparatively neglected. It is therefore by no means an uncommon sight to find the fine old gardens around our city in rather a neglected condition, whilst the kitchen or vegetable patches still receive their wonted attention; and even, as we have noticed, the number of these latter have been considerably increased, which, indeed, is a pleasing sight to the eye.

Although it may not be superfluous to state that successful gardening requires here, as well as elsewhere, the constant application of manure to the soil, still we have observed that those localities which have long been under culture contain the best mould, and therefore yield the amplest return for the expended labor. In this respect we have particularly noticed in the vicinity of our city some uncommonly rich garden spots, and which must have been in yearly use over perhaps a hundred years already, without any apparent exhaustion. One of these extraordinary localities is the vegetable farm immediately adjoining the old sugar refinery, somewhere below the tobacco warehouses in the Third District, on the public road towards the United States barracks. Upon this long established country farm stands an old stately building, which, according to our estimation, must have been erected more than a century ago. Although it is in a somewhat dilapidated condition, yet if we were the owners of this piece of property, we would have it repaired and reinstated for a curiosity. Its architecture is, indeed, a favorable specimen of the most ancient sort of family mansion building in the country, and for one who has paid some attention to the different styles of architecture that have prevailed in the country during the successive stages of French and Spanish colonial régime, as well as the former first essays of American style of architecture, it is easy to assign almost to any building its epoch of erection. Hence we conclude that the house standing on the garden farm, under review, must be of the most ancient French buildings in the country. We have already stated in former numbers that the building materials, (cypress timber,) employed in the first houses erected in our city, were procured out of the then very abundantly provided cypress forests. Out of these primitive wilds the best and stoutest forest trees would be selected—the timber thus chosen received the necessary seasoning; and for this reason it is no wonder that nearly all the most ancient buildings in and around the city of New Orleans should present the curious spectacle of such long resistance to the climatic effects. Aye, where we have seen brick built houses, erected since the transfer in 1803, in a comparative state of decomposition, we have noticed along side, or nearly in juxtaposition, old creole cypress houses, without paint or outside protection, in a complete state of soundness and durability, which dated from the time of French and Spanish colonization. Indeed, there is not a more curious, and at the same time a more interesting spectacle in our city, than the infinite variety of architectural constructions, the innumerable diversity of style of houses, both ancient and modern, which New Orleans presents to the stranger in all its sections and quarters. We, the inhabitants, are so much accustomed to this daily view, that we find nothing extraordinary in this medley of fine houses and tumbling down shanties; but it is not so to the casual visitor, who, for the first time, sets his foot upon the levee, and who is indeed struck with this most extravagant sight of all the different domestic buildings—all sorts and sizes, colors and fashions, that the utmost fancy may be capable of combining. This is not alone confined to what is styled the old city proper and ancient suburbs, for we find exactly this infinite variety continued from year to year, and in every quarter of our extended city limits, so that we may well assume that every particular architect, and every especial owner of a piece of property, has taken it into his head not to build after some known model, but to invent something yet untried in the way of architectural undertaking. Some thirty years ago, building societies were formed, in order, as it was then stated, to bring into fashion a little more uniformity of building, and the result of these lower and upper associations may still be seen in the rows of buildings, called the Architect's buildings, one row of which is situated between Port and St. Ferdinand, Casa Calvo and Moreau streets, in the Third District. Another row of the same company will be found on Royal street, between Ursuline and Hospital. These were so far the achievements of the down town company; whilst in the second municipality then, now the First District, a fine row of houses on Julia street, between St. Charles and Camp, and some other rows on Delord and Carondelet streets, were erected, which final result did not, however, correspond with the expectations of the parties, and hence we have not seen this enterprise renewed of bringing some little uniformity in the building structure, which now ornament or disfigure the front sides of a good many of our streets. After all, it may be as well to leave the utmost latitude to our city builders in erecting their own mansions; at all events, this is one undeniable proof of the building liberty existing in our country, and will remain as an indisputable testimony in that respect; whilst in European capitals, very often the owners are obliged to build in a certain style or fashion, by order of the supreme authority, under the plea of thus beautifying the imperial or royal cities, as the case may be.

Speaking of the lower sugar refinery, which, like the former tobacco warehouses, belonged to an association, we have observed that business there seems entirely suspended; and as for the tobacco warehouses, which served for awhile the United States troops as stables, store houses and soldiers' quarters, we find them tumbling into ruin, and the best plan, no doubt, would be to convert the masses of bricks into salable building material, and thus restore the ground, which has never yet netted the amount of tax payable thereon, for other purposes. The idea of transporting tobacco cargoes to this locality was certainly somewhat eccentric; but when we sift this enterprise to the bottom, like so many other associated undertakings, we will find that the furnishing of bricks, of materials, of disposing of the building grounds for certain interested individuals, was perhaps the main object and the principal motive for this, then out of the way location, for their enterprises.

As the former buildings of the intended paper manufactory, in the rear of the cotton press, have already been demolished, and the materials been employed in more rational undertakings, let us hope that the same course will be pursued with all the other useless erections, now that our city requires these materials more than ever before.

With respect to the down town cotton presses, we have observed with pleasure that after the late period of military occupation, these localities have again resumed their former peaceable and profitable functions; it is thus that some life may anew be infused into the lower suburban line, which looks particularly dismal, now that the ruins of old Touro's Almshouse point, like so many warning spectres, to the upper region, as much as saying, "aye, from on High will come the restorer if not the avenger of past misdeeds!" Let us then hope for a speedy restoration of all our former active industrial and social enterprizes. Let us hope that the speedy pacification of our country may enable those that were charged with carrying out the benevolent intentions of that grandee's institute, the destroyed Touro's alms palace, to resume their efforts in again taking up this noble undertaking—one that would indeed immortalize its founder—as we stated in a former number, if actually realized, as contemplated in the sketch submitted to our readers on a former occasion.

Congressional Proceedings.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The bill to establish telegraphic communication between the United States and Cuba was taken up on a question of concurring in certain House amendments, one of which limits the price of telegraphing to $3 50 for ten words, and another gives the government the right to use the line at all times, free of all charge.

Mr. Conness hoped the Senate would not concur in the amendments. The price was altogether too high—$3 50 for ten words, for a hundred miles.

Mr. Morrill said the right to amend the bill was inherent in it, and if the charge was found too high, it could be reduced at some future time. It was only provided in the House amendments that the rate should not exceed $3 50 for ten words.

The Senate then, on motion, refused to concur in the House amendments, and called for a committee of conference.

USE OF THE SENATE CHAMBER.

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution to grant the use of the Senate chamber on Thursday evening, May 3, to James E. Murdoch, to give readings in aid of the fund for the establishment of a national soldiers' and sailors' orphan asylum. Mr. Wilson asked for the immediate consideration of the resolution.

Mr. Riddle—I am in favor of the object in view, but—

The Chair—It requires unanimous consent to consider the resolution. Does the Senator from Delaware object to its present consideration?

Mr. Riddle—I object.

The Chair—Objection being made, the resolution lies over.

RELIEF OF NAVAL CONTRACTORS.

The special order of the day being the bill for the relief of certain naval contractors, it was taken up. The pending question was on the motion of Mr. Henderson to postpone the bill till the first Monday in December.

Messrs. Henderson and Nye spoke in favor of the bill, and Messrs. Clark and Riddle against it, and the discussion occupied three hours.

On the motion to postpone the bill until December, the roll was called and the vote stood 11 yeas to 25 nays.

Mr. Henderson then moved to recommit the bill and amendments to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Conness hoped it would be recommitted to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Davis suggested that the committee be instructed to report separately upon each case.

The Senate refused to recommit the bill by a vote of 13 yeas, 33 nays.

The bill was then passed. It provides as follows:

SECTION 1. That the secretary of the treasury be directed to pay out of money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the several parties the awards made in their favor by the naval board organized under the resolution of the Senate adopted March 9, 1865, the awards being made under date of December 23, 1865, and reported to the secretary of the navy; *Provided*, That the payment shall not in any case exceed twelve per cent. on the contract price, except in the case of the Catanache, in which case the award shall be paid in full.

SEC. 2. That in the cases of Donald McKay of Boston, and Miles Greenwood of Cincinnati, whose contracts have been completed to the satisfaction of the department, and who were prevented from appearing before the naval board, they shall be entitled to the same rate of compensation as is authorized to be paid to other parties building the same class of vessels and machinery, and such money to be paid to them out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, under the supervision and direction of the secretary of the navy. *Provided*, The evidence submitted for their examination fully establishes the right of said parties to said amount of compensation.

SEC. 3. That the amounts named shall be in full for all claims of said parties in the said contracts.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Wilson offered a joint resolution for the following amendment to the Constitution:

"No payment shall ever be made by the United States or by any State for or on account of the emancipation of any slave or slaves, or for or on account of any debt contracted or incurred in aid of insurrection against the United States.

"Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State; but whenever, in any State, the elective franchise shall be denied to any of its inhabitants, being male citizens above the age of 21 years, for any cause except insurrection or rebellion against the United States, the basis of representation in such State shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of male citizens so excluded shall bear to the whole number of male citizens over 21 years of age.

The second clause of the resolution provides that whenever any of the States lately in rebellion shall ratify the foregoing, the Senators and Representatives from such State or States shall be admitted into Congress.

The resolution was ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNED.

The Senate, at 5:20 adjourned to meet on Monday.

HOUSE.

Mr. Kasson offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the President to cause to be communicated to the House a collation of the provisions in reference to the freedmen contained in the amended Constitutions of the Southern States, and in the laws passed by those States since the overthrow of the rebellion, so far as information on that subject may be in his possession.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Ancona, of Pennsylvania, reported back, adversely, a large number of petitions from army officers, which were laid on the table.

PRIVATE BILLS PASSED.

The House then proceeded, as the regular business in order during the morning hour, to the consideration of the committee reports on bills of a private character.

Messrs. Washburn, of Massachusetts, Thornton, Delano, Ward, McKee, and Washburne, of Indiana, reported a number of cases from the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Washburne, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill for the relief of Charles Bremens & Co., for the passage on board the Hawaiian bark Kanehameha of sixty eight destitute seamen of American vessels burned by the Shenandoah, from Ascension Island to Honolulu.

The morning hour having expired, the bill went over till Friday.

AMENDMENT TO THE REVENUE LAW.

Mr. Morrill gave notice that the bill to amend the internal revenue act would not be called up till Monday.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The House resumed the consideration of the Northern Pacific Railroad bill, and the clerk read a substitute offered by Mr. Stevens, as modified by him. The modifications consist of the following:

Strike out section 24, and insert in addition to section 2, as follows:

And upon the failure on the part of the company, for a period of 90 days, to pay interest on the said stock as the same may mature and become due, the treasurer of the United States may have power to sell so much of the said lands so reserved as aforesaid, at public auction, as will reimburse the government for the payment of said interest, provided the land shall not be sold for less than $2 50 per acre.

Add to the proviso at the end of the bill the following:

Provided further, That at least three-fourths of the board of directors shall always be citizens of the United States; and

Provided further, That the government shall not be called upon to pay the interest on the cost of construction of more than 50 miles of the said road, for the first year, nor for more than 100 miles additional for the second year, nor for more than 200 miles additional for the third year, nor for more than 200 miles additional for the fourth year, and after that time on no more than 300 miles additional per year, until such road is completed.

Mr. Bingham addressed the House in support of the bill. He said that the substitute just read, removed and silenced the objection urged by gentlemen who had spoken against the adoption of the measure. The bill should receive the vote of every member of the House. It was the duty of statesmanship to develop all the resources of the nation, and to enable the nation to lay its hand upon the uncounted commerce of the great West, by becoming the carrier of that immense trade by the shortest possible route.

Mr. Rogers next made an argument in support of the bill. He declared that there was no fraud or taint of fraud upon the bill, and there should be no imputation upon the character of gentlemen who were here urging its passage. The two gentlemen from Ohio (Messrs. Delano and Shellabarger,) had told the House that they had been informed that the original owners of the charter had sold out, and he would like to know how they happen to have so much information, unless they themselves had come in contact with the powerful lobby which was employed in attempts to defeat the passage of this bill. He hurled back the insinuations into the teeth of those who had charged lobby influence in favor of the bill, and alleged that a most gigantic influence was at work to defeat it. The gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. Washburne,) who was so very anxious at this time to defend the treasury, had not talked about the depletion of the treasury when that most obnoxious, wicked, and pernicious measure, the freedmen's bureau bill, which would have cost the government $50,000,000 a year, was before the House.

Mr. Grinnell addressed the House in support of the bill. The immense grant of land, he said, owned by the company, was not worth more than so much moonshine or clear sky; not worth a pea an acre, without access to it by railroad. No man was rich enough to own and pay taxes on it without access to it. Although the Central Pacific railroad passed his door, he was willing to have the Northern road also constructed, and as many other railroads to the Pacific as could be built.

Mr. Wright addressed the house in opposition to the measure, which he denominated a sort of gift enterprise, where much was promised and very little performed. He thought it was extremely dangerous for the government to become godfather for all these enterprises. He contended that Congress had no right to give away the national domain, and likened the attempt to the occasion when the devil brought the Saviour to the top of an exceeding high mountain, from which he showed him much property, and offered him a very large tract of public land, but Our Saviour knew that the devil did not own it, and said to him, "Get thee behind me, Satan." He did not expect much conscientiousness, however, from this railroad company, which would take all the land offered, although Congress had no right to give it away. He thought the soldiers were far better entitled to the bounty of Congress than this railroad company, and he intimated that he had some idea inviting the Cambon and Amboy railroad to come and get its share of the public lands.

Mr. Broomall said, as we found taxes too heavy to equalize soldiers' bounties, they were too heavy for this grant of money.

Mr. Harding was unwilling to add a dollar to the debt, except for works of great national importance, which this was not. "Owe no man anything," and "Go not security for others," were good Scripture maxims.

Mr. Stevens said the question ought to be discussed with gravity. This was a national work, and ought to be put through. He had read a list of the directors' names, and called on Mr. Banks to vouch for them. The country through which the road was projected was richer in minerals than any other. He was informed arrangements were now being made to bring emigrants from the North of Europe this summer to plant along the line.

Mr. Banks occupied a few moments of Mr. Stevens' time.

Mr. Price moved the previous question.

Mr. Spalding moved that the bill and the pending amendment be laid on the table.

Questions of order having been raised as to whether Mr. Price could be thus cut out of his right to close the debate, the motion to lay on the table being undebateable, the Speaker decided that although it was the understanding of the House that the gentleman from Iowa was to close the debate, and although the motion to lay on the table was a very rare one, under such circumstances, yet the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Spalding) had a right to make that motion.

Mr. Price asked whether he had not the right to the floor for an hour.

The Speaker replied that if the gentleman from Ohio insisted on his motion that cut off all debate.

Mr. Spalding did insist on his motion, and called for the yeas and nays on it.

The question was taken on the motion to lay on the table, intense interest being manifested, as it became evident that the motion was to succeed, and the vote resulted in 76 yeas, 56 nays.

Mr. Wright moved to reconsider the vote, and to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

Mr. Darling, with a view to prevent the vote being made final, moved an adjournment.

The House refused to adjourn—yeas 52, nays 63.

Mr. Lyon called for the yeas and nays, and there were some indications of a purpose on the part of the friends of the bill to filibuster. The yeas and nays were taken and the House again refused to adjourn.

The motion to reconsider was then laid on the table without a division.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion of Mr. Stevens, it was ordered that the session to-morrow be confined to debate on the President's annual message.

On motion of Mr. Elliott, a committee of conference was ordered on the West India telegraph bill.

Mr. Ross asked leave to call up the motion to reconsider recommitting the question of the admission of Tennessee to the Committee on Reconstruction, which he designated as a putrid, corrupt carcass—a stench in the nostrils of the people which should be abated now that the cholera was approaching.

The Speaker ruled that it could not be called up.

The House then adjourned.

Great Fire in Mobile.

FORTY BUILDINGS BURNED.

[From the Mobile Register and Advertiser, May 1st.]

Between the hours of two and three o'clock yesterday afternoon the alarm of fire was rung out, and soon after a dense cloud of smoke was seen rising from the vicinity of the Little Market. A strong southwest wind was blowing at the time, and the conflagration spread with lightning rapidity, the flames originating in the large carriage factory of Henry Shoemaker, on the corner of Scott and Dauphin streets, having caught from sparks ascending from a fire made to heat wagon tires in the back yard. The building being a light frame structure, and the material very combustible, it was soon wrapped in flames, which communicated to the adjoining buildings on either side.

The engines arrived on the spot promptly, but the fire had gained great headway, and spread to the heart of the square, which, despite the noble efforts of the firemen, was totally consumed. The devouring elements was carried on the wings of the wind to the Bell Tavern and the market building, both of which were destroyed. It then communicated to the old row of wooden buildings on the north side of Dauphin, and thence ranged to the brick building occupied as a drug store on Dauphin street, where it was checked in that direction by the massive walls and the efforts of the firemen. The fire was confined to a circuit of three squares around the market house, chiefly ranging on the triangular squares between Dauphin and Spring Hill Road, known as the Bell Tavern square, and the two squares between Dauphin and Conti, above Scott and below Wilkinson streets. The number of buildings destroyed is estimated at upwards of forty, and fully one hundred tenements occupied by families.

At the present writing, it is utterly impossible, in the confusion consequent upon such a conflagration, to furnish the details, but we will endeavor to do so hereafter. Among the heaviest losers we have the names of Mrs. Burns, L. Gomez, Mayfield & Boulton, A. Shoemaker, Philip Sherman and L. Joseph.

The excitement was intense, and thousands of men, women and children thronged the streets in vicinity. Robbery was carried on to a shocking extent until two companies of the 13th regiment arrived at the scene and protected the property. Goods and furniture were moved out of houses for squares around the fire, and the streets were fairly blockaded. The police were energetic and worked admirably, but the thieves, many of them old offenders, outnumbered them, and a wholesale robbery was carried on for a time. Pickpockets also plied their vocation, and many suffered from them. The liquors in Philip Sherman's saloon were all carried off by thieves, who dealt them out lavishly to their friends. The Bell Tavern liquors were saved by the exertion of friends, and their vigilance in guarding them. Messrs. Pierce & Wheeler were fortunate in saving all their stock.

Fully one hundred families are thrown out of house and home. They are comprised chiefly of the class known as creoles, and noted for their industry and good citizenship. Serious apprehensions were at one time felt for the safety of Mr. Dane's stables. The heat from the fire was intense, and it was difficult to approach the buildings on fire. The firemen, as usual, labored under great disadvantages from the scarcity of water. It is due to the two companies of the fifteenth regiment, and Gen. Woods, who was at the scene, to state that they worked like bees in protecting the property of the sufferers.

As regards the estimated loss from this great fire, or the amount of insurance, we are at present unable to give even an approximate statement. At six o'clock last evening the fire was subdued, and a gloom pervaded the city.

LINEN SHEETING—10,000 Yards.—A superior article, very fine and heavy, 10-4 wide at $1 50, 11-4 at $1 65, 12-4 at $1 85. For sale by Kreeger & Seligman, 607 Magazine street, marble front, near Josephine street.

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

NOTICE TO ELECTORS.

NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS
—OF THE—
PARISH OF ORLEANS.

The Election for the parish of Orleans will be held on MONDAY, May 7, 1866, at the following designated polling places in the said parish, and under the superintendence of the Commissioners and Clerks of election hereinafter named—

First District.

FIRST PRECINCT.

Poll No. 1—At the engine house of Fire Company No. 12, on Tchoupitoulas, between Orange and Race streets. Commissioners: D. O'C. Brady, P. B. Rochard, P. Pagon. Clerks: B. Redmond, G. W. O'Brien.

Poll No. 2—At engine house of Fire Company No. 1, on Hunter street, between Tchoupitoulas and Levee. Commissioners: A. Walker, Thos. H. Shields, Chas. Zeis. Clerks: Charles B. Drew, M. Egan.

SECOND PRECINCT.

Poll No. 1—At engine house of Fire Company No. 20, on Thalia street, between Racine and Dryades. Commissioners: C. Stumpf, P. H. Degroy, T. T. Hanlon. Clerks: A. E. Shaw, Jas. O'Connors.

Poll No. 2—At the corner of Enterprise and St. Charles streets. Commissioners: Jacob Kahler, T. T. Pistenoe, C. A. Parker. Clerks: S. S. Fish, Wm. Sullivan.

THIRD PRECINCT.

Poll No. 1—At the engine house of Fire Company No. 5, corner of Commerce and St. Joseph streets. Commissioners: Thos. Wrigen, Thos. E. Brady, Samuel S. Doyle. Clerks: D. Mahoney, Robert Dimond.

Poll No. 2—At the corner of Annunciation and Peoyfard streets. Commissioners: John Bonebrake, F. H. Weyman, A. B. Seals. Clerks: C. P. Thomas, Geo. McFall.

FOURTH PRECINCT.

Poll No. 1—At the engine house of Fire Company No. 18, on Calliope street, between Bayades and Carondelet streets. Commissioners: C. McManus, Pierre Childress, John A. Somers. Clerks: C. P. Ames, Adolph Layet.

Poll No. 2—At No. 332 Rampart street, near the corner of Calliope. Commissioners: John Magner, James S. Noble, L. A. Theochard. Clerks: H. Wingess, C. W. White.

FIFTH PRECINCT.

Poll No. 1—At the engine house of Fire Company No. 2, on Tchoupitoulas, near the corner of Natchez street. Commissioners: Timothy Sullivan, Chas. N. Morris, W. B. Koontz. Clerks: A. J. Kelly, E. J. Cox.

Poll No. 2—At No. 107 Tchoupitoulas street, between Girod and Lafayette. Commissioners: E. L. Bruce, P. Harcum, J. J. O'Hara. Clerks: E. J. Boucher, Calvin Porter.

SIXTH PRECINCT.

Poll No. 1—At the engine house corner of Perdido and Carondelet streets. Commissioners: Wm. Hart, H. Florance, J. Bertrand. Clerks: B. Rodes.

Poll No. 2—At the engine house of Fire